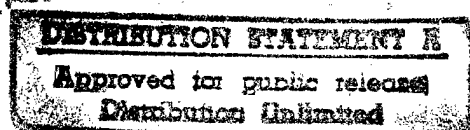


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15 March 1984

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PROBLEMS, ASPIRATIONS OF ARAB ECONOMY DESCRIBED

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic No 206, 21-27 Jan 84 pp 44-45

[Article: "The Arab Economy in 1984: Common Problems and Unified Aspirations"]

[Text] In economic terms, the year 1983 can be described with a great deal of realism as the year of the first transformation of the "OPEC decade". In this year, given the circumstances produced by international economic stagnation, some Arab oil countries began to suffer from some of the problems of oil-importing countries, although there was, of course, a relative difference. To be more specific, revenues fell, deficits occurred in general budgets, public spending declined, and resort was even made to foreign loans.

However, the positive aspect of the year of change was its clear influence on guiding spending and rationalizing development programs. Last but not least, OPEC held together as an organization, despite the difficulties it faced internally and on the level of supply and demand in the international market.

How does the year of change look with respect to the Arab oil states?

Saudi Arabia: Concrete Successes

Since the kingdom's basic infrastructure has basically been completed, the Saudi government has called on the private sector to assume its responsibilities and play the role it deserves in the economy of the country and in the services sector. At the same time, the government has encouraged economic measures that assure Saudi businessmen a continued flow of jobs and funds. The oil sector accounts for 60 percent of the Saudi national income. The latest statistics published by the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency [SAMA] indicate that the kingdom's exports of both crude and refined oil fell from 9.6 million barrels a day in 1981 to 6.2 million barrels a day in 1982. In the first half of 1983, average daily oil exports were only 3.6 million barrels. That is, exports were 48.1 percent lower than in the first half of 1982. On the basis of the figures published by SAMA, the export revenues earned by ARAMCO, which accounts for 97 percent of all the kingdom's oil revenues, amounted to \$17.013 billion during the first half of 1983. Despite that, imports held firm, in general. Up until the end of September 1983, the value of imports amounted to 102.67 billion Saudi riyals, although the magnitude of visible trade registered a decline in the

second quarter of 1983, after having achieved a surplus in the fiscal quarter of 1982.

Although the kingdom's oil production rose to more than 5 million barrels a day in the second half of 1983, it is unlikely that this partial increase will have a concrete effect on the final export figures. Saudi oil industry circles think it likely that the kingdom's oil exports will not witness a fundamental change in 1984, especially since the kingdom has been satisfied to play the role of a flexible source inside OPEC. It has based this role on not allowing its production ceiling to go beyond 5 million barrels a day. Thus, the 1984-85 fiscal year budget will not differ much from the 1983-84 budget.

The kingdom has achieved notable successes on the level of the agricultural sector, which has enjoyed an abundant share of government support in the last few years. This has allowed the kingdom to produce locally 90 percent of the wheat it consumes. In addition, it produces 95 percent of its eggs and 35 percent of the milk and cheese it consumes. The kingdom expects to become self-sufficient in wheat production in 1984.

The industrial sector has also registered notable progress. The Saudi private sector has shown clear interest in developing light industries. The Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corporation [SABIC] intends to offer 20 percent of its shares for subscription in 1984.

"Suq al-Manakh" Crisis

The state of Kuwait: At the end of 1983, Kuwaitis were bidding farewell to the worst economic stagnation since the oil boom at least, since all the economic sectors in the country suffered as a result of the fall in oil revenues. In addition, they suffered when the revenue earned from the booming transit trade was lost as a result of the Gulf War. Then there was the shock produced by the collapse of the "Suq al-Manakh", which is still being felt today.

Recent official statistics indicate that Kuwait's total exports fell 1.6 percent during the 1982-83 financial year ending on 30 June 1983. The value of its imports fell 3.8 percent. In general, the Kuwaiti market witnessed a slowdown in commercial activity. This, in turn, affected the banking sector as a whole.

The contracting sector was not spared by the state of stagnation that dominated the Kuwaiti market, especially since the lion's share of development allocations went toward advanced technological projects, such as power plants and refineries. These projects are usually undertaken by large foreign companies.

Moreover, the climate produced by the "Suq al-Manakh" crisis still dominates the economic situation in the country. It imposes a certain state of anticipation on businessmen and institutions that want to enter the investment market once again. However, the "Suq al-Manakh" crisis has had some positive aspects as well. Perhaps the most prominent one is that Kuwaiti investors are now convinced that they must accept more realistic profits from their investments. This change has been evinced by the prosperity recently experienced by the

market for dinar bonds, which did not attract Kuwaiti investors before the "Suq al-Manakh" crisis because its rate of return is only 10 percent.

It is logical for the Kuwaiti economy in 1984 to depend on a change in three factors that made 1983 the worst year of stagnation in the modern history of Kuwait. The state's oil revenues must recover enough to allow public spending to increase. The Gulf War must end, so that the transit trade and domestic commerce can flourish once again. The damage caused by the "Suq al-Manakh" crisis must be contained in a way that will allow confidence in the business sector and in commerce to revive. This picture must not obscure the basic fact that the Kuwaiti economy is still solid. Kuwait's small population, the revenue from its wide-ranging foreign investments, and its nearly complete infrastructure makes it the Gulf country that is the least affected by a reduction of varied activities in the non-oil sector. The share of the gross domestic product (GDP) produced by this sector rose from 39 percent in 1981 to 51.1 percent in 1982.

The UAE: The Fall in Revenue

The UAE: 1983 represented a cruel experience with respect to the revenues of the federal government in the UAE. The UAE faced a fall in its oil income, while OPEC reduced its output share to 1.1 million barrels a day. This caused numerous large federal projects to be frozen, while payments owed for some projects were delayed. An attempt was also made to cut back the size of the country's broad social spending. However, the fall in revenues had a more severe effect on the northern emirates than on the emirates of Abu Dhabi and Dubai, which possess a broad infrastructure and can cover all their own spending. This is not the case with the northern emirates, which depend primarily on the federal government's spending. This situation has encouraged the emirates of Ra's al-Khaymah and al-Sharīqah to make further progress in projects designed to develop their own hydrocarbon resources.

The gross domestic product (GDP) of the UAE fell 5 percent in 1982. All estimates lead one to think it fell by a larger percentage in 1983. However, the UAE's trade balance continued to show a surplus of 9.5 billion dirhams (\$2.587 billion) during the first half of 1983. This must be compared with a surplus of 16.930 billion dirhams (\$4.609 billion) in the same period of 1982.

The fall in oil revenues had a negative effect on the process of distributing allocated funds to all the emirates. It encouraged the federal government to adopt a strict policy of guiding spending, even to the point of imposing some taxes on the citizenry and exempting foreigners residing in the country from free services in the fields of health and education. The policy of guiding spending has taken in all sectors, with the exception of defense matters, given the continuation of the Gulf War. An exception was also made for projects to develop the oil and gas installation in Abu Dhabi. This spending reflects the higher cost of extracting oil from the new fields.

Moreover, OPEC's determination of the UAE's oil production ceiling has caused a serious short-fall in the gas liquefaction plants in Abu Dhabi. This means that the state must develop fields of non-associated gas in order to enable

these plants to work at their natural capacity and in order to operate the power plants now under construction. In this regard, it should be pointed out that the ADGAS company has borrowed \$500 million from the commercial banks in order to finance the plant on Das island.

For its part, the Emirate of Dubai is currently trying to develop oil production from its general wells, in addition to intensifying the search for new fields. Since mid-1982, al-Shariqah has been exporting gas, while Ra's al-Khaymah plans to start exporting 6000 barrels of hydrocarbon products a day at the start of 1982. However, it is too early to confirm that Ra's al-Khaymah and al-Shariqah will be able to earn enough revenue to start executing large development projects.

Qatar and Bahrain

Following the announcement in February 1983 by the British company British Petroleum and the French firm called SFP-Total of their intention to join the General Petroleum Corporation of Qatar in exploiting the gas reserve in the large northern field, 1983 was not characterized by any positive developments worth recording. It was the year of the austerity budget, which was announced in April. It was also the year when OPEC decided in March to lower the prices for Qatar's oil by 15 percent.

Qatar's declining oil revenues affected its development projects. This was seen in the lower budget figures and the delaying of payments to contractors. Recently, the Government of Qatar began to meet the cost of some of its obligations by paying in kind with shipments of crude oil. During 1983, the sum of \$206 million owed by the Ministry of Electricity and Water was paid with quantities of crude oil. The news repeated in official circles in Qatar indicates that the expenses of a number of new projects might be paid in this way. Of course, the second stage of the construction of the new university has been given to the MIDMAC contracting firm, which will undertake the job in return for commodity payments in crude oil.

Qatar's oil exports account for 85 percent of the state's revenue. In March 1983, these exports fell to 171,000 barrels a day, the lowest level they have reached since the 1950's. They then rose again to the ceiling set by OPEC, which is 300,000 barrels a day. Of course, trading operations were one of the prime causes of the new rise in export volume. Last November, the minister of oil and finance, Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz bin Khalifah 'Al Thani, confirmed that about 120,000 barrels a day of Qatar's output were being sold in return for cash payments, while the rest was being disposed of on the basis of swapping. The minister explained that Qatar needs to export 425,000 barrels a day in order to be able to continue spending for its development programs. He said Qatar had been forced to turn to its foreign reserves in order to finance the 1983 budget deficit, which amounted to 5 billion Qatari riyals, or about \$1.373 billion.

Bahrain: Because of the drop in its oil revenues, Bahrain is facing pressures similar to those it was exposed to between 1976 and 1978, when both the general budget and the trade balance showed deficits. However, the extension of the implementation period for the development projects in the 1982-86 5-year plan

until 1988 and the issuing of development bonds may contribute to the alleviation of Bahrain's economic burdens. Of course, Bahrain still gets direct assistance in the form of investment projects from the other Gulf Corporation Council [GCC] countries.

The fundamental challenge to the Bahraini economy in the long run consists of the effects of international stagnation on Bahrain's position as a services center in the Gulf region. Currently, the foreign banks and companies are reviewing their expectations of the future. However, most observers believe that the foreign interests active in Bahrain will not leave the country en masse. Although some banks and corporations have closed down their offices and branches, the Bahraini monetary institution is still granting investment licenses to new foreign banks and banking institutions.

Moreover, Bahrain's oil production, which is currently 42,000 barrels a day, is continuing to fall. As long as no new discoveries are made, it is expected that Bahrain's oil reserve will run out in the mid-1990's. This fact has led the government to encourage industrial projects that use non-associated gas, which is present in abundant quantities. At the current level of exploitation, there is enough to last 50 years.

Moreover, Bahrain is trying to increase its income from non-oil sectors. For this reason, it raised its tariff rates last February, in addition to developing its aluminum exports, after the price for this mineral had improved. The Aluminum Company of Bahrain, ALBA, is expected to show a profit for 1983, after having suffered a loss in 1982.

Development spending in the Bahraini budget focuses on energy and water purification projects. They are followed by housing projects and the extension of water and sewer lines and roads. The biggest contracting project currently being carried out in the country is the bridge that will connect the island with the coast of Saudi Arabia. This project is being financed entirely by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

12224

CSO: 4404/303

DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT COMPANY DETAILED

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic No 204, 7-13 Jan 84 pp 44-45

[Article: "The Agricultural Investment Company is the Core of the Joint Arab Market"]

[Text] A few months ago, the Arab Agricultural Investment Company was nothing but a project dreamed up by the Federation of Arab Chambers of Commerce. The federation was working on it on the basis of the pan-Arab economic situation. One basic fact is that the Arabs import \$35 billion worth of food a year. At the same time, their agricultural, human, and financial potential is capable of filling the deficit or gap. The Arabs could change from food importers to exporters by the start of the 21st century.

These facts were presented by the federation to the first conference of Arab businessmen and investors, which was held in al-Ta'if in 1982. Those attending the conference agreed that an agricultural investment company should be formed with \$5 billion of capital. Its task would be to produce the foodstuffs imported by the Arabs, the most important of them being meat, milk, butter, and grain. Despite the fear evinced by some conference participants concerning the value of investing, given agricultural laws that limit investors in various Arab countries, those at the conference expressed their belief that the Arab world's increasing need for food would make the company economically viable. Moreover, they thought that the Arab governments, driven by their need to supply their citizens with food, would open the door to private capital and remove bureaucratic and legal impediments.

A third consideration played a role in crystalizing this idea. It was the desire of Arab businessmen to take part in joint projects, since the extent of the work in such projects is much greater than that for private, non-cooperative ventures. Moreover, joint companies have formed the core of a common Arab market from which the private sector has been distant or removed.

The private sector has often complained, via the individual chambers of commerce, the Federation of Arab Chambers of Commerce, and the Federation of Chambers of Commerce in the Gulf, that private capital has been prevented from participating in the capitalization of some joint Arab projects, "without any justification save the charge that Arab businessmen run after quick profits in commerce and real estate." This complaint was voiced in several statements by

Arab chambers of commerce. Therefore, the agreement to found the company was tantamount to a response to these accusations. It was a confirmation that Arab businessmen do contribute to "development projects", even those which face "some non-commercial risks."

Four Supports

The conference formed a follow-up committee that held its first meeting on 19 June 1982. It was decided then that the company would be a joint-stock, off-shore, Bahraini holding company with exempt status.

The company was set up in Bahrain because of the numerous advantages the island enjoys, such as a liberal fiscal policy and a suitable investment climate from the economic, political, and legal points of view, as well as the absence of structural obstacles in the area of communications and travel. In addition, no financial obstacles exist with regard to transferring profits. Moreover, other exemptions are provided by the financial practices and laws in the state of Bahrain. As for the company's legal form (an off-shore, joint-stock holding company with exempt status), it was chosen in order to expand the basis of participation, which goes beyond Arab businessmen to include all the subjects of the Arab states and the Arab governments and institutions. In the final analysis, they will participate in realizing the meaning of the unified agreement for the investment of Arab capital, as was stated by the committee's report.

The committee decided that the company would engage in agricultural investment in four ways:

- a) It will invest directly in agricultural, livestock, and fishing projects by setting up agricultural companies and firms specializing in these areas in various Arab regions. It will do so with participation by the citizens of each Arab region. Participation in these companies will come mainly from the private sector.
- b) It will industrialize the production of agricultural, livestock, and fish products by founding an industrial food firm that will either be entirely owned by the company or will be at least 50 percent owned by it.
- c) It will trade agricultural goods and commodities, as well as agricultural fertilizers, equipment, and machinery, by founding trading companies that will deal in these goods. The mother firm will either own these companies outright or own at least 50 percent of their stock.
- d) The company will finance agricultural projects by founding a bank that will finance such projects in various Arab countries on a developmental, commercial basis. The mother company will either own this bank completely or it will own at least 50 percent of it.

The committee suggested that the project's capital should be \$1 billion instead of \$5 billion. It would be increased as was necessary. It was also decided that its paid-in capital would be \$250 million distributed over 2.5 million shares. The value of each share would be \$100. The committee suggested

that each branch company should have the nationality of the country in which it works.

The activities of the committee proceeded with evident slowness. This caused the chairman of the Federation of Arab Chambers of Commerce, Mr Burhan al-Dajjani, to speed up the foundation process by delegating the complex legal tasks to some Arab chambers of commerce. In fact, the follow-up committee gave the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Kuwait the task of drawing up the proposed founding contract and the company's basic regulations. It gave the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Bahrain the job of following up the measures needed to obtain the official approval of the concerned Bahraini authorities.

The follow-up committee submitted the results of its activities to the second conference of Arab businessmen and investors, which was held in Cassablanca at the beginning of last November. This was done via a subcommittee of the conference whose task it was to study the main principles and basic organization of the company, as well as the summary of the contacts made by the Bahraini chamber of commerce. It was decided to move forward in the process of founding the company, after the conference noted that Saudi, Syrian and Moroccan investors were enthusiastic about participating in it. The conference set up a founding committee and a representative committee with a member from each country.

The founders committee, which is similar to a board of directors, is composed of Shaykh Salih Kamil, of Saudi Arabia, who is the chairman, and the following members: 'Abd al-Nabi al-Shu'lah (Bahrain), Fath al-Rahman al-Bashir (Khartum), Dr Ratib al-Shallah (Syria), Ibrahim al-Afandi and Dr Mansur Aba Husayn (Saudi Arabia), Hamdi al-Tabba' (Jordan), 'Adnan al-Qassar (Lebanon), and Ahmad Banis (Morocco).

As for the representatives' committee, which is similar to a general assembly, it is composed of the following gentlemen: Hamdi al-Tabba' (Jordan), Qasim Ahmad Fakhru (Bahrain), Ibrahim Muhammad Afandi (Saudi Arabia), Fath al-Rahman al-Bashir (the Sudan), 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Attar (Syria), Ahmad Muhammad 'Umar (Oman), 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Binyah (Iraq), Husayn Qabazird (Kuwait), Muhammad al-Za'tari (Lebanon), Najim Aba 'Aqil (Morocco), Muhammad Shaykh Walad 'Ammar (Mauritania), and 'Abdullah Ishaq (Yemen).

It was decided to set up a two-man follow-up committee to be composed of Shaykh Salih Kamil and Mr 'Abd al-Nabi al-Shu'lah, in order to keep track of the legal measures required to found the company. The month of January was set as the final date for the founders to subscribe their share, which amounts to 5 per cent of the paid-in capital.

The founders sent letters and measures to the kings, presidents, and amirs of the Arab states in order to explain the company's goals.

Letters to the Kings and Presidents

Among other things, these letters stated that: "the company aims to employ Arab funds in the service of development in these countries by means of engaging together in joint activity that aims to support Arab economic integration...

this company will complete the role played by various Arab financial funds in developing the agricultural, livestock, and fish resources in the Arab countries." The letters went on to say that: "The Arab world is entering a developmental phase on the pan-Arab and national level. This means that the role of the private sector must be strengthened in the areas of private and collective initiative. This must also be done to provide investment opportunities and a suitable investment climate by means of assurances, incentives, facilitations, and detailed handling. In this way, the private sector can carry out its role in the process of economic development and in the confrontation with the fundamental challenges that stand in the way of the future and destiny of the Arab countries. This means that it is necessary to encourage the flow of capital within the Arab nation and deepen the links between the Arab financial markets, so that they will become more integrated. Action in this direction will lead in the end to the implementation of the economic unity agreement and the creation of an Arab common market. This will only happen if unlimited investment incentives are placed before Arab investors and the limitations that shackle the flow of Arab funds are cast off by the introduction of administrative, legislative, and credit facilitations. Facilitations and investment incentives are the basic dimension that leads to desired economic development."

The founders of the company say that: "The most important goals of this company are oriented toward the directly productive sectors in the areas of agricultural, livestock, and fish resources, in addition to agricultural and nutritional industries. This leads to participation in the realization of the strategy of food security and development." The founders ended by demanding that the concerned government agencies be directed to facilitate administrative measures and permit the necessary exemptions, if there is a legal obstacle preventing the mass of people from subscribing to the shares of companies whose headquarters are not located in the country. "The subscription by the masses of your brother countries in the shares of this company will provide it with the major incentive for engaging in investment projects in your countries. Therefore, we also hope that the company will be granted the other necessary exemptions and licenses when it engages in investment projects in your countries."

The primary justification for these requests is that some Arab states forbid the shares of a foreign or Arab company to be offered in its territory. Therefore, it has been necessary to take a purely developmental view of the company and, consequently, have it exempted from laws such as these. However, the important thing is that the founding committee also asked the state of Bahrain to exempt the company from Article 3 of decree number 25, which was issued in 1977. The article concerns licenses that are connected with the founding of joint-stock, off-shore companies. It forbids offering the shares of these companies for general subscription in the Bahraini market. The committee also demanded that the company be exempted from Article 80 of law number 29 of 1975, which deals with commercial companies. The law says that the founders, in addition to paying their set share, in accordance with the law, must pay a sum equal to the share that the public is being asked to pay, before the publication of the subscription announcement. This share cannot be less than 20 percent of the value of the stock. The founders want to lower the ratio to 5 percent, because the company will not need to be fully capitalized at the beginning.

It is expected that the changes and exemptions being asked of the Bahraini government will be implemented next February. After that, the committee will be able to hold a meeting to determine the date for announcing the company and the subscription of its capital, as well as the subscription centers, etc.

Those who are well informed do not expect any difficulties from the Bahraini government, which actually hopes that its territory will become a center for joint Arab companies. If there are any difficulties, they will be overcome before next February. However, they do expect that more than one Arab country will refuse to allow the company to offer its shares in its markets. This rejection will not create obstacles in the path of the company, since it suffices to have its shares offered in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Lebanon, and Egypt, so that its shares can be subscribed to several times, as happened to the Arab Company for General Investments in 1980.

12224

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RESULTS OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS' UNION ELECTION DECLARED

Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 14 Jan 84 pp 1, 3

[Article by al-Sayyid Hani: "The Agricultural Workers' Elections: Hijris As Union Head, Mazin and Muhassib As Deputies"]

[Text] Eng Sa'd Hijris won the position of Agricultural Workers' Union head. He obtained 19,215 out of the total of 39,395 valid votes.

His rivals obtained the following: 'Ali Shukri Ayyub, 9,633 votes, Husni Salamah Faraj, 5,611 votes, and Salah-al-Din Abu-al-Nasr, 4,936 votes.

Mazin and Muhassib as Deputies

Mustafa Mazin won the position of first deputy, obtaining 17,817 votes as compared with 15,186 votes for Muhammad Sabri Salim and 5,769 votes for Ahmad al-Sharbini.

The second deputy, 'Abd-al-Khaliq Muhassib, obtained 25,071 votes as compared with 12,131 for his rival, 'Ali-al-Din Tawfiq.

Three candidates won membership on the union board throughout the republic: 'Abd-al-Fattah 'Abd-al-Maksud won 20,461 votes, then Ibrahim 'Antar won 18,401 votes, then al-Sayyid al-Khuli won 17,895 votes.

Winning for the Cairo and Giza area, for more than 15 years, were:

Ahmad Khattab, 1,589 votes, Shawqi al-Bajuri, 1,212 votes, and Fu'ad Abu Sa'dah, 101 votes.

Winning for less than 15 years were:

Mustafa al-Hulayli, 1,311 votes, al-Jamil Yusuf Qabil, 1,179 votes, and 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Jamal, 1,142 votes.

The elections this term did not meet with much response from agricultural workers. The number of people who took part in the elections came only to [illegible],000, as compared with about 55,000 in the elections the previous

term, though the number of members in the union comes to about 140,000 agricultural workers.

The number of agricultural workers totals about 32,000 in the Cairo and Giza area alone, but only 2,249 voters took part in the elections. Likewise, in Alexandria, the number of agricultural workers comes to more than 20,000, but only 1,520 took part.

Winning membership in the board for Cairo and Giza for more than 15 years were people who had been on the board for 12 years; one of them, Dr Ahmad Khattab, has been a member of the board for 20 years.

People who won for less than 15 years are coming onto the board of the Agricultural Workers' Union for the first time; they had previously run in the previous term, but has received low votes.

The only two female candidates in the elections, Zaynab Huqni and Safa' 'Uthman, received low votes in the elections.

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OPPOSITION PAPER EXCORIATES CONTRACTORS FOR POOR PERFORMANCE

Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 1 Feb 84 p 4

[Article: "Government Report Exposes the Truth of the Alleged Achievements in the New Towns; Arab Contractors Officially Acknowledge Unjustified Laxity in Construction"]

[Excerpt] Once again the documents at our disposal are official, authorized government reports. They state that the declarations the National Party prime minister is making every day concerning the achievements of the sectors under him do not express the truth, and that the people in charge of these sectors are laughing at the nation, with the money and the wealth of the nation, through the declarations they are making.

These documents include the contracting sector, the sector which the biggest "boss contractor," as he must be called, declared would bring the sign "apartment for rent" back to Egypt. It is also the sector which is building all the government's projects, from schools and bakeries to factories and airports.

We believe that President Husni Mubarak was serious and sincere when he declared, more than once, rightfully, that it was necessary that the government concentrate its effort on solving the two problems of food and housing. In the context of solving the housing problem, the National Party government has declared that it has concentrated massive investments in the area of erecting and constructing "new towns."

Today, we wonder: where were the National Party apparatus and sectors as far as this directive went? What is the position of the contracting sector, public and private, that is in charge of these new cities? How many apartments and facilities has it built in them? In its advertisements in the nationwide papers, it has gone beyond the limit of continuing to speak untruthfully and the point of exceeding talk of the thousands of apartments it has built, to talk about the swimming pools it is setting up.

In one nationwide paper, it was stated that the annual volume of work and investments in the contracting sector as a whole comes to a few billions,

which is close to Egypt's total foreign debt. The government has also declared that the investments set aside for the new towns in the 5-year plan which started last year total 4.2 billion pounds, above and beyond the billions which have been spent on the sector of new city contracting, from the time that was established up to now.

The language of numbers in the billions also requires that people be held to account, at least from the standpoint of the projects this sector has completed, for which the nation has cut off, from its living flesh, these billions. That will require the formation of a judiciary political committee at any level in which officials will be held to account, or we ourselves will be held to account, concerning the truth of what we are publishing today.

We are not concerned, today, with specific financial aberrations, but rather are accusing all of these persons of shortcoming and negligence, which cause them to cease to be fit to be in command of this massive mission. Why should they not be held to account, or at least resign from their positions of leadership?

On Wednesday 16 November 1983 a meeting was held whose second half was chaired by the chairman of the New Development Communities Authority, Eng Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, the minister of state for housing and reconstruction. It included 23 officials from the authority and chairmen of the board of the contracting companies operating in the new towns.

At the meeting, the minister asserted that these companies' level of construction had been "unacceptable" and warned that the programs of the Arab Contractors Company had been delayed 3 years on the average. The minister declared that he was not persuaded by the justifications the companies had given for their delay. In spite of his lack of conviction, as his statement stipulated, he decided to agree not to deduct the interest on the various accounts of payments offered to all the companies and to exempt them from the deduction of this interest.

In the face of this magnitude of investments which the government pays and collects from citizens, and this volume of facilities, what is the truth about the accomplishments in this sector, which the senior "boss" in it, on the basis of his experience, has portrayed as carrying a magic wand?

The Arab Contractors ('Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman and Partners)

The story of 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman's anger at the news the nationwide papers had published on the nomination of a board chairman of Arab Contractors from outside his family is well known. He intervened, with his pressure, and obtained a decree from the prime minister appointing his nephew chairman of the company.

What have the Arab Contractors, 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman, done in the new towns?

The documents at our disposal state:

The Arab Contractors Company, 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman and partners, took charge of the project for roads and facilities in the first residential

section of al-Sadat City. The value of the project was set at 5.2 million pounds. The company specified that it would be built in 360 days, and actually started work on 4 November 1979. It was stipulated that it would be completed on 3 November 1980.

The document continues: Up to November 1983, that is, after 4 years had elapsed since the starting date, and 3 years since the delivery date, the company had completed only 49.7 percent of the work assigned to it.

The document, in its observations on the current progress of work and the measures the company had taken in the face of the unjustified procrastination or shutdown, goes on to say that the work is proceeding slowly and that the work completion ratio on sanitary drainage is 66 percent, on water work, 53.7 percent, and on road work, 16 percent.

The same company had been given the responsibility for completing water tanks worth 647,000 pounds in al-Sadat City as well on 5 November 1979, provided that it deliver them on 4 October 1980, and, although 3 years have elapsed since the date on which the project was completed, only 85 percent of the work has been done.

The company also assumed responsibility for building the water plant and wells in the same town, at a cost of approximately 2.5 million pounds. It started them on 15 September 1980, on the proviso that it deliver them on 8 March 1981. Although 2 years and 8 months have elapsed since the date on which the project was completed, it has not yet been delivered.

The company also started work on the project for the system to provide electricity to the first industrial area and the entrance to the first residential town in al-Sadat City, costing approximately 3.5 million pounds, on 11 May 1980, with the provision that it deliver it on 11 June 1981. Although 2 and a half years have elapsed since the date of delivery, the company has completed only 84 percent of the project.

What was the statement by the company official, Samih Hasaballah, whose maternal uncle, 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman, intervened to get a decree issued appointing his brother Salah as chairman of the board of the company and an exceptional decree that it was not to be made subordinate to the Redevelopment Authority, which the contracting firms were supervising, and to whose company, along with others, a decree was issued at the meeting that interest was not to be deducted from the delayed balances on the advance payments? Samih Hasaballah said: "These projects have indeed been delayed," and he promised that he would "complete all these projects in the month of February 1984."

The month of February has come; do you suppose the construction has been completed?

What else do the documents at our disposal say?

They say that the Arab Contractors Company, 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman and Partners, was put in charge of 15 May City, neighborhood housing project, Number

Four, to construct 1,190 housing units (low-cost housing) at a cost of approximately 11.5 million pounds. Work began on 1 July 1980, with delivery to take place on 31 December 1981. Although 2 years have elapsed since the stipulated completion date, the rate of completion has so far not gone beyond 59.6 percent of the project.

In the same town, the company also was given the responsibility of neighborhood four services, which included two nurseries, one primary school, a market, and a place of prayer costing 800,000 pounds. Work started on 1 July 1980 and in spite of its stipulated delivery, the rate of construction has not yet exceeded 52 percent of the project.

The documents also state that Arab Contractors Company, 'Uthman Ahmad 'Uthman and Partners, was assigned the task of constructing 1,169 residential units (distinctive housing) in 6 October City at a cost of 26,782,000 pounds, and work started on 16 January 1985 [sic]. The agreement stipulates that 19.4 percent of the work was to be completed on 31 October 1983, but it was apparent that what has been constructed so far does not exceed 1.4 percent, and the document, in its observations, noted that work is proceeding with perceptible slowness.

As to the response of the company official at the meeting, he acknowledged the delay but did not mention a reason. He promised that effort would be made to make up for the delay.

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OPPOSITION PAPER CALLS FOR BROAD REPRESENTATION IN MEDIA

Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 1 Feb 84 p 3

[Article: "The Nationwide Media Are Armed Forces by Which the Government Puts Pressure on Free Elections"]

[Text] All the board chairmen and editors in chief of the nationwide papers are members of the National Democratic Party media committee and prior to that they belonged to the same committee when the party went by the name of the Egypt Party!

All the television and radio heads are either members of the National Party or act with the mentality of people who are officials in the National Party government!

The statement that there are national media in Egypt which express opinions, and opposition opinions, is unanimously considered just a joke by which the government amuses itself; it is not concerned with them, and the "nation-wide" media do not carry them out either!

From the time the election campaign heated up 2 months ago, talk about equal rights to the media has been preoccupying the opposition, confusing the government and causing anxiety to everyone who is concerned over Egypt's democratic development!

The members of the opposition say that the government's dominance of the media means that it will exploit them to publicize its candidates and make publicity against the people in the opposition, as happened in the 1976 and 1979 elections and all the referendums which were pushed through between those two dates and after them!

The government, in the words of the minister of information, says that it will give the parties television and radio time which is commensurate with the size of each election list. It has escaped the minister of information that the law requires the parties to offer lists in all districts, because the minimum for winning, which is 8 percent, is calculated on a republic-wide basis, and not in the context of a given governorate or district. The minister then said again, in another statement, "according to their size!"

People who are concerned over Egypt's democratic development state that the problem is not one of elections but is more important and more complicated; it is a problem of the composition of public opinion, the problem of the millions of Egyptians who do not understand what is going on in their country because they have grown tired of the same voice, which means that they are ready to do anything and accept any regime, because they are a silent majority whose silence will not last long, and the danger is that they will talk with rifles, pistols, bombs and machine guns, at which time the Egyptians and the whole world will see it on television, as has happened before.

Brainwashing

Khalid Muhyi-al-Din, the secretary general of the Grouping, says,

"Experience has proved that control of the papers and the media is the basic concern of the ruling party, which uses these media in an extremely bad manner, which leads to a phenomenon rarely to be found in a democratic country, where the people turn off their television sets when the news, political programs, or statements by officials are presented, and open the daily official press to the sports page, not to the front page. Those people who are concerned with what is going on in their country or the world rely on foreign Arabic broadcast services, such as Radio London or Radio Monte Carlo. That means that people do not believe the government media, and resort to foreign media, and that is an extremely serious matter. People all remember the violent awakening that gripped the Egyptian man on the street following the broadcast of the political television panels which the late Jamal al-'Utayfi, the former minister of information, arranged in 1976, which became the talk of all the people. They started to become interested in parties and party programs, demands and leaders, and compared their views and positions. However, the Egypt Party stopped the panels, because it felt that its ideas were mediocre in the face of the ideas of the opposition, and preferred its own narrow interests to those of the nation, which call for the revival and construction of public opinion and its transformation into a force for pressure. Without that, the government, any government, cannot know people's real orientations, and that increases its isolation, complicates its problems and opens the door to risks which we all, government and opposition, can dispense with. Suffice it to say that the media have for many years continued to pretend to be ignorant of such a serious phenomenon as that of the tendencies which were described as religious extremism, and contented itself with launching campaigns against it, without giving the people who followed these tendencies the right to defend themselves or hold a dialogue on their views, and they were compelled to defend these views with weapons. The government media platform, in spite of the campaigns of slander it conducted against them, failed to win over the proponents of their viewpoint, a mistake the government has turned away from recently, albeit after the incident of the podium. In spite of our reservations, and the reservations of the people involved in the cause, over what is happening, that does not shake our receptivity to the principle in itself, although we had considered that it was not applied in a manner that would close the door to all mistakes. Violence is the expected answer to the closing of the doors of dialogue, and dialogue occurs not when the government speaks and the opposition listens, and the people listen, but rather when we

all speak before the people, so that they may be concerned, first of all, with what is going on, and may choose of their own free will among opinions with which they have become familiar."

Dr Hilmi Murad, secretary general of the Labor Party, adds:

"As long as the country's system is founded on a democratic basis whose pillar is the presence of a number of political parties, which are supposed to succeed one another in power according to the trust they have won from the people, on the basis of the number of votes they obtain in elections which are supposed to be free and proper, the media which the government is in charge of must be considered national, and not a monopoly of the ruling party, so that they will not be used by that party as an instrument for carrying out the process of brainwashing the citizens and putting the view of the ruling party alone in their minds, to the exclusion of other views. Otherwise, to say otherwise is similar to the use of the armed forces, forces which speak for the whole people, and play a national role, by the party which comes to power, in order to protect a specific party by itself against other parties, prevent them from coming to power and enable it to remain in power forever."

The Freedom of the Citizen

Dr Sa'd-al-Din Ibrahim, professor of sociology at the American University, stresses another point, the freedom of the citizen, the basis of democracy, and states:

"Democracy presupposes that there are free citizens who follow up on public affairs, have an overview of various opinions on these affairs and choose among those views the one that is in keeping with their conviction. Consequently, there is no democracy without free citizens, and there are no free citizens without free media, and if the government is really serious in its pursuit of democracy, the index of that seriousness will be the provision of opportunities to all citizens to hear all views on the important issues."

I asked Khalid Muhyi-al-Din:

"What is your opinion on the effect of the freedom of the media on the freedom of the citizen?"

[Answer] There is first of all the effect of the media in forming and creating the citizen's opinions, especially with the revolution in communications which has occurred in recent years, to the point where some people have called ours the era of television. No one can deny that the media are what create the consciousness of the citizen. Television, for example, can create a magnificent cupola out of a single grain of sand and the expressions the media circulate in a given stage are sometimes automatically circulated by the people, without a real understanding of their meaning, because the citizens, in the age of complex societies in whose auspices we are living, are exhausted by work and problems, and consequently their ability to think deeply about what is said to them is sometimes slight, and they become not free but people who have been taught by rote. Let me give you as an

example the propagandistic slogans that were used to publicize some of the referenda, which involved many restrictions and freedoms in order to protect Egypt from atheism, communism and other notions, while we and other people opposed to these referenda were not allowed to explain to people why they had to say "no." If we assume that there are people who did go to these referenda and said "yes," will it be possible for us to say that they were free, in the sense that they knew the views of the people who called on them to say "no" and people who called on them to say "yes," and struck a balance between the arguments of the two groups, and chose? Shall we consider the results of the referendum or the election an expression of public opinion? There are citizens in this country who do not know that there are opposition parties in it. That is not the fault of the parties. Rather, it is the fault of the people who restrict them, so that no one can hear their voice. For this reason, an opinion expressed by the isolated citizen who hears only the opinion of the government is not in reality expressive of him and does not represent his will. Rather, he is compelled to express it, and the results that arise from this opinion are not binding on him. Otherwise, how can you explain the government declaring its victory with a parliamentary majority in 1976, for instance, and just 4 months after that all the people go out and demonstrate against it? Did the people change their minds that quickly? Or did the government deceive them and offer them programs which were not its own and projects which it did not carry out, portraying the people in opposition to them in an untruthful manner, as atheists, agents or other labels which are not used in political dialogue in any advanced democratic country?

A Distorted Condition!

The current condition of the media, in Khalid Muhyi-al-Din's view, is distorted and contradicts the simplest principles of democracy and justice. In Dr Sa'd-al-Din Ibrahim's opinion, it is a totally monopolistic condition, not in the interests of the ruling party or the nation. The reason, as the professor of political sociology in the American University says, is that the monopolistic condition and the media glut that is created in a single direction produce a form of internal resistance within the citizen toward what rains down on him from these one-sided media, especially since the two of them are the most important media agencies in Egypt, where illiteracy is widespread and the newspapers have little effect in comparison with that of the radio and television. Then they cause these media to lose their vitality and their power to attract the masses, and make the people working in them lose their professional character. The journalists in the nationwide press are turned into employees in the government, and the media figures on radio and television lose their vitality and their ability to innovate, because they become propaganda officials or advertising representatives for the government. Dr Ahmad Husayn al-Sawi, professor of journalism at Cairo University and media expert with UNESCO, says:

"Radio and television in Egypt are totally oriented toward the service of the ruler, whatever the person of that ruler might be, and the examples are countless. Take for example the news bulletins on radio and television. The arrangement of the news on them has no equivalent in any democratic country, although it does have equivalents and similar forms in authoritarian and

autocratic regimes. It starts with news of the president, and gives prominence, over the most important local and international news, to telegrams of congratulation he has sent or received on holiday occasions. Even the comments which follow the news bulletins all express the view of the government and its party, and we do not hear the views of the other parties or those of independents, the views of experts on the subject, or the comments of newspapers and foreign commentators who give an opinion different from that of the government.

"That is what happens in the nationwide papers, with no review of the requirements of the profession, responsibility toward language or the citizen's right to independent information. That is a right which international agreements that Egypt has signed guarantee him. It is sufficient to state that not a single nationwide paper has referred to the conferences the opposition is holding, while they are publishing news about the conferences of the ruling National Party and broadcasting the speeches of its ministers on television and the radio. It is sufficient to state that an item of news such as the ruling in favor of the Wafd Party, which purely from the standpoint of news and the professional standpoint is an extremely important item, was unfortunately broadcast by the world's radio services and published by the newspapers of the world, but the government papers in Egypt published it in a format which is in no way in keeping with the professional aspect, in spite of what we teach first year students in journalism faculties and institutes."

Lists of Proscribed Persons

Another, serious aspect of the issue of the party nature of the nationwide papers, radio and television is raised by Dr 'Awatif 'Abd-al-Rahman, professor of journalism at Cairo University. She says:

"The opportunity must be given to the expanding media personnel of the opposition parties to work in the official media without overt or covert restrictions!"

On this point, Dr 'Awatif refers to the lists of persons who are prohibited from talking on the radio and television. These lists include a large number of the most brilliant university professors, journalists and major writers, who have been prohibited from speaking in these media, even on their fields of specialization, just because they are from the opposition, or are members of opposition parties.

Khalid Muhyi-al-Din says:

"I will not talk about al-Sadat's era, but the radio and television are still violently boycotting a large number of ministers and experts who have filled our party and the other opposition parties, and even the television programs that contain dialogues among various tendencies, such as the program 'Meet the Press,' which has been suspended, and the program Dr Yusuf Idris used to run, ignored the presence of opposition persons. What dialogue is this? Do they hold dialogues with themselves?"

Indeed, the prohibition, as Fu'ad Nushi, the media secretary in the Labor Party, says, includes government ministers when they hold dialogues with the opposition. He says:

"We invited the minister of agriculture to our party's symposium, and we held a dialogue with him on the problems of agriculture. The media were not interested in talking about the symposium, while the television broadcast the statements the same minister had made at conferences of the ruling National Party. When the delegation of Egyptian people's forces traveled to Tripoli, we invited some government journalists along with us, and when they returned they wrote their reports and ignored that we were the people who had given the invitation, though the foreign radio and television stations broadcast the news of the trip!"

The result is that the radio and television programs, which are all serious, lost their influence over the viewers, and instead of becoming a source for enlightening the citizens about their problems and prompting them to take part in public activity, they were compelled to fill long broadcasting periods with foreign serials and other programs which are of no value.

Commenting on that, Dr Faraj Fudah, a leader of the New Wafd Party, said,

"The sole advantage of the widespread illiteracy in Egypt is that people do not read what is written in the government papers, and that protects them from many evils."

The Problem of a Platform

I asked the secretary general of the Grouping:

"Where in your opinion does the disruption lie in the question of media equality among parties?"

Khalid Muhyi-al-Din said,

"It lies in the philosophy of programming, basically, and the rest is details. The present government's program philosophy is to continue with the philosophies that existed beforehand, and, since that is mediocre and is not satisfactory to the people, it cannot cope with the thinking of the opposition and therefore tries to stifle and belittle it. Previous governments used to say that all the opposition parties consisted of fragments, and nonetheless they were unable, and still are unable, actually to stand up to these fragments in the face of public opinion. We say that it is in the interests of President Mubarak and his regime to become acquainted with people's real opinions. This acquaintance will come about not by compelling them, through insistence and propaganda, not to understand what is going on, but rather by opening all outlets and by talking openly before people, after which we should then let them choose whom they want. However, if the program philosophy which seeks to compel people through propaganda and brainwashing to choose the National Party continues, because the government has not given the people a chance to know anything else, that is the road to instability which we all hope the nation will not be exposed to!"

[Question] However, they say that they will apply what is being practiced in other countries and will give the opposition an opportunity during the election campaign to express its opinions and explain its programs.

Khalid Muhyi-al-Din smiled and said,

"Why just during the election campaign? Why has this permission been delayed, since the election campaign actually started more than a month ago, and the radio and television programs are now being mobilized to publicize the National Party in various ways? What then is this talk about the other countries? Who told them that these countries only broadcast on behalf of the opposition in the days of election campaigns? Don't officials hear, over [Radio] London's Arabic broadcast, not its English broadcast, statements by the opposition [sic] Conservative Party in England? Don't they hear that De Gaulle carried out a referendum in which the French people deserted him, since the papers and television were given the opportunity to present other views, which called for a vote of 'no' in the referendum? Why should other countries be 'good' if they announce a state of emergency or issue a law to resist terrorism, while they are not 'good' if they have private television stations owned by the parties and private radio stations, as in India, for example, a country whose circumstances are similar to ours?"

I told Dr Ahmad Husayn al-Sawi:

"The minister of information, Safwat al-Sharif, said that there is a permanent committee in the British House of Commons in which representatives of the parties meet and reach agreement on splitting up the hours for appearing on television or the radio, on the basis of each party's size."

The media professor interrupted me to say:

"That is not true at all. I saw Michael Foot, the chairman of the Conservative [sic] Party, attacking Margaret Thatcher on television last year. Foot took 7 minutes and Thatcher took the same period of time. Foot was violent in his attack, while Thatcher was extremely violent. Even in the public appearances which everyone attends -- the queen and the leaders of the parties -- what happens in our country does not happen. The camera concentrates on one person to the exclusion of another and the chairman of one party does not shine at the expense of the chairman of another party."

Dr Hilmi Murad adds:

"I was in London during the recent elections and witnessed how British television achieves equality of opportunity among all the British parties, transmitting the meetings of the ruling Labor Party [sic] and the meetings and movements of the opposition Conservative and Liberal Parties, presenting their programs in a common manner which enables the viewer to make a sound objective comparison among the various parties without partiality toward the ruling party."

Says Dr 'Abd-al-'Azim Anis:

"I was in London during the tripartite aggression against Suez in 1956, and nonetheless the Conservative Party, which was in power at that time, did not broadcast that Britain was in a state of war, and did not use that as an excuse to prevent the opposition from expressing its opinion on the war. In fact, it invited Kelley, the leader of the Labor Party at that time, to express his view, and it was against the party. However, in the stages preceding the general elections, it allowed the three parties equal time for party publicity, amounting to a quarter of an hour per day for each party during the 2 months preceding the election campaign. The party is free to address the citizens without advance censorship, and that of course is on top of the discussion and debate programs which officials on television run and to which officials of the three parties are invited, which are run by a distinguished journalist or an independent public personality. More than that, every day the radio and television broadcast statements from papers of all tendencies. This is a daily routine throughout the year and is not just concerned with the election period. Above and beyond that, the visual and aural media are careful to convey the views of the parties on important issues and rush toward them of their own accord. Compare that with what happens here. It is sufficient to state that the television censorship makes it a condition that the opposition papers not declare their contents on television and that the declaration of the contents just be by title alone, while that does not happen with the papers of the ruling party."

Dr Ahmad Husayn al-Sawi draws attention to another point, which is the national interest, which is realized by an exchange of views before public opinion on various issues. He wonders:

"What did the radio and television services do when the problem of the Pyramid Heights and the piping of Nile water to Israel were raised? Nothing. Isn't it now being proved that the opposition was right on the two subjects? Didn't the government abandon them and other things the opposition raised? How can we sacrifice something that is in the general national interest in favor of the narrow party interest? How can we deprive public opinion of its right to know what touches upon its interests and what is related to its country's politics?"

The Theory of Magnitude

Although using what is going on in other countries as evidence, as established by the statements of people who are knowledgeable on what is going on there, is not precise, the issue of the distribution of times for television and radio appearances has drawn the attention of Dr Hilmi Murad, who said,

"The mentality which links the parties' right to address citizens through the media to the magnitude of their representation in parliament ignores the fact that this magnitude is not constant, but rather is variable. It often happens in democratic countries that the majority party becomes a minority party. The application of this rule leads to the situation which exists now, which is that the ruling party monopolizes the government media during the constitutional term of the People's Assembly, which is 5 years, during which only that party's view is broadcast and no one else's view is heard except every 5 years. That is something which is contradictory to democracy of

government and leads to the dictatorship of the ruling party and the consecration of the single view, which leads to political 'myopia.'"

Khalid Muhyi-al-Din wonders:

"What do they mean by stating that the parties will receive rights in the media on the basis of the magnitude of their votes and the magnitude of their list in the voting? Everyone knows that the 1979 elections were falsified and the present government does not deny it. On what basis can the magnitude of each party be measured? Then we are at the end of the legislative season; that is, the magnitude of the parties is being subjected again to the review of the people, so that they can obtain the trust of the people, which means that no one has a majority; otherwise, if the National Party still represents the majority it obtained 5 years ago, regardless of the falsification, there will be no need for elections at all."

Dr Ahmad Husayn al-Sawi says:

"How does the minister of information, who is a party minister, know the magnitude of the parties competing with his? How can he be the arbiter on this subject? Who gives him the right to control an agency which the government, not the party, possesses?"

Dr Sa'd-al-Din Ibrahim adds:

"I personally doubt that there is any party that represents the majority in Egypt. Out of a total of 12 million voters, the number of people who belong to parties does not exceed 2 million, that is, less than one sixth the political body which is slated to choose the People's Assembly. Any claim that there is a majority party in this situation is not founded on convincing evidence. It might be that one party is bigger than another, but that is no reason for the lack of equality among parties, especially since the people who say so use what is going on abroad as evidence, but the people there are not familiar with this thinking and treat everyone equally."

The summary is that the failure to give the opposition rights to the media that are totally equal to those of the government means, as Dr Ahmad Husayn al-Sawi says, that the campaign will not be totally free, or devoid of pressure or terrorism. Terror does not come through the stick alone!

The Law Is on Our Side!

I asked Khalid Muhyi-al-Din:

"What, in your view, is the optimum form in which the opposition can exercise its right to the government media?"

[Answer] Since the disruption lies in the philosophy of programs, it is necessary that that change, and this matter requires effort by the government to curb its own tendencies toward dominance and dictatorship and requires efforts from the opposition and independent public personalities who have weight. It requires understanding on the part of President Mubarak and

direct intervention from him. If the government amends its philosophy and decides to demonstrate to us that it has the confidence of the people because it represents a mass party, and not because it is a government, let us compete on a basis of total equality in everything. Isn't there anything in the service of the public in our programs and our credit, especially since we are asking for is not an innovation, but rather the law actually gives us this right?

Dr Hilmi Murad, the secretary general of the Labor Party, adds:

"The law on the Radio and Television Federation stipulates that an opportunity is to be granted for the presentation of views and opposing views, which are the views opposed to the official ones. The press law considers the nationwide papers non-partisan, and thus party persons do not have the right to be the editors in chief of these papers or manage them. In democratic countries, the Radio and Television Federation is independent so that it will not be subject to the influence of the executive powers, and it is run by a council of secretaries in whose selection or election care is taken that they represent all the artistic and literary aspects and all political and intellectual currents."

To her demands for total equality between the personnel of the opposition and the government in making appearances on television and radio, and on the pages of the nationwide papers, Dr 'Awatif 'Abd-al-Rahman adds her demand that the opposition parties be represented on the boards which run the radio and television and the Department of Information, so that it will include, among its members, representatives of all the parties functioning on the stage!

The Party Affiliation of the Minister

The party affiliation of Safwat al-Sharif, the minister of information, was demonstrated when his office declined for 2 whole weeks to set a date for AL-AHALI to discuss all the above with him and ask him his opinion on these questions, which the opposition is asking of him:

Will the coming election campaign be run while the nationwide papers are under the dominance of prominent members of the National Party who have actually been implicated in provoking the opposition and calling for its imprisonment and oppression, having previously proved their party affiliation in an unworthy manner in the 1976 and 1979 campaigns?

Will the radio and television continue to be a monopoly of the National Party alone, by which it can engage in the campaign against the opposition?

How will the times for appearing on television and on the radio stations be apportioned, and on what basis?

When will the parties start to exercise their right to address public opinion, since the National Party has actually started its campaign through all channels, stations and government papers?

What is his opinion on the notion that Dr Faraj Fudah has presented, that radio and television should rent advertising space to the parties by which they can address public opinion, as is the case in Israel? Does he consider that that is of less importance for public opinion than commercials for La Vache Qui Rit and other things that television entertains us with?

Another question: Is the minister aware of the danger to which the stability of the nation and the regime are subjected when people get fed up with a single voice, a single opinion, a majority which does not express their majority, and policies where no one is concerned to know their real opinion which is founded on conviction in them?

If the minister and his government do not understand, that is a disaster!

If the minister and his government do know, that is a greater disaster.

Read the report from its beginning.

11887

CSO: 4504/170

POSITIVE, NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF 'BRAIN DRAIN' EXPLORED

Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 10 Jan 84 p 8

[Article: "Why do Educated Egyptians Leave Their Country?"]

[Text] In Edgypt there is a phenomenon that is clear to all, not hidden from anyone. It is called the "brain drain," the "fleeing birds," or the "flight of the workforce." The columns of Egyptian newspapers and magazines are filled with long discussions of this phenomenon, a great deal of talk about it, and a thorough study of it.

If it is true that skilled and trained labor and talented minds are considered a human treasure that is impossible to replace; if it is true that this emigration represents a serious drain on Egypt's human resources; if it is true that the brain and worker drain is considered the number one danger threatening--as much as illiteracy--all Egyptian development plans and projects which are aimed at raising the level of production and, thus, the standard of living; if all of this is true, then it is also true, in fact it is a certainty, that this phenomenon has been neglected for many years and has been left hanging in the wind.

Some have sufficed to glance at the problem. Some have tried, studied, examined, researched, held conferences, spent millions on holding symposiums, and conducted studies. Some have drawn up plans, extracted recommendations, and issued resolutions.

The pages of the newspapers are filled with the "brain drain" and the media has competed to portray the dark danger behind the emigration of workers.

Because the phenomenon is well-known to everyone, what is behind the phenomenon becomes more important, more dangerous, more far-reaching, and has greater impact. Is it emigration or is it a drain?

"Brain drain" is a phrase used first by the Europeans in the aftermath of World War II to explain the emigration of scientists, academics, doctors, and engineers from their native countries to other countries.

The studies that dealt with the Egyptian brain drain began to appear after 1966 and were confined to Egyptian scholars. From these studies a number of questions emerged, the most important being:

1 - Does the emigration of Egyptians conflict with the interests of economic development in the country?

2 - Should the state encourage emigration or should it put limits on the number of people from each group that are allowed to emigrate? If there were to be such limits, who would be allowed to emigrate and who would be forbidden to do so?

Confronting these questions and others, we find ourselves facing three bodies of opinion. So says Dr Sunniyah 'Abd-al-Wahhab Salih, the author of the first PhD dissertation of its kind on the brain drain. She received her PhD with honors from the American University in Cairo.

The first opinion, held by some writers outside the Western block, says that the emigration of professionals from their native countries damages efforts to build the country and deprives it of the expertise and capabilities of its educated sons. Meanwhile, the country they have immigrated to derives a number of benefits. In short, the rich countries provide development aid to the underdeveloped countries but, at the same time, they rob them of their most important and significant resources. The latter, in this case, is completely true.

The second opinion, advocated by sociologists and economists, states that emigration is not a problem but, rather, a phenomenon that contributes to the solution of other problems such as high unemployment, crumbling pay structure, the population explosion, and the resultant reduction in income for professionals. The economists believe that giving professionals the freedom to move outside the borders of their country to seek the maximum profit helps to encourage production in the world as a whole. The world situation is improved and the world benefits as a result of the "brain drain." The issue here, then, is a worldwide one and not a local one.

The third and final opinion says encouraging emigration of the educated helps to create equilibrium in the increasing numbers of those with specialized skills, people whom society can no longer absorb because of their specialized capabilities. This opinion holds that these educated people will not be able to bear staying long in the country without work or continuing in jobs that are not commensurate with their level of education or intellectual qualifications.

Dr Sunniyah 'Abd-al-Wahhab says, "Stop a moment and think. When the door to emigration is left open without restrictions or conditions, the educated emigres are essentially human capital. Economic development does not only mean providing skilled people. Development must provide the appropriate opportunities to use these skilled people and put them to work. This will not take place until specialists are allowed to participate to the greatest extent possible where there is a true need for them."

"Therefore, we must consider this a kind of 'cultural exchange' and we must replace the old scientific term that stresses the "brain drain" with another term that calls for a "brain gain," or "brain exchange." If not, we may have a "brain loss."

Class Structure..Behind Emigration

We are discussing one subject but it has two facets: the educated and trained, and the laborers and the workforce. Both parties must be considered and, despite the disparities between the two, we must understand the hidden motives and causes that prompt both groups to leave their homeland and be completely satisfied to live away from home.

Because the doctor's dissertation and field work dealt with the "brains" it was necessary that we go to [a representative] of the "workforce" as well.

Muhammad al-Faqi, president of the General Union of Media Workers and Printers in Egypt, says that it is necessary to provide material and psychological incentives and to define work performance standards with a new program and a comprehensive concept whose first premise is that production is linked to salary and compensation, and not to prices. In addition, the labor unions must undertake practical and realistic training programs that raise the level of the Egyptian worker. Also, performance standards must be divided into categories according to age, seniority, and capabilities, categories which will lead in the end to the protection of old skills so that the young workers can derive benefit from the years of knowledge and productivity. This requires that these young people sense the value of work and experience. In the end this will help curtail the emigration that is draining the Egyptian workforce. Foreign markets are sucking the blood out of the workforce under the reality of the "separation of wages, separation of classes" experiment.

Dr 'Abd-al-Wahhab then moved on to her scientific field study that was based on 30 Egyptian scholars who have worked from 35 to 55 years. In other words, they are thoroughly experienced and have borne responsibilities. They share a number of traits that distinguish them all as being members of the middle class. They all graduated from Egyptian universities with honors. Without exception, their answers express their dissatisfaction with the situation at universities, research centers, and scientific organizations in Egypt.

The Educated and Alienation

They stated that the clear and tangible disparity between the salaries in Egypt and those in other countries was not the primary or sole motive for their emigration. They all work to increase their salaries by various means, including working overtime, earning extra by setting up projects, private offices and clinics, etc. Therefore, increasing their income is not the only motive or incentive.

Then, why do they emigrate, live away from home, and [contribute to the] drain?

The answer to the question comes as easily and quickly as the question itself. In short, they feel as though they are of no use to their society. They feel that the time they spend is a waste and a loss. No one acknowledges their capabilities, is concerned about their problems, feels that they are important, or even notices that they exist.

According to Dr 'Abd-al-Wahhab, "This situation has deprived them of their feeling of status and belonging. They all suffer from severe psychological distress due to the lack of facilities necessary to conduct their research, continue their experiments. In general, they cannot take advantage of their specialized qualifications to solve the vital problems afflicting their society."

"They all agreed that the scientific climate abroad and the amazing facilities available give them the opportunities to work, create, innovate, and apply their skills in useful and efficient ways. This was the main reason behind their emigration and tolerance of life away from home. In addition, they are able to work in their areas of study and expertise."

Some Prefer Not To Emigrate

Most of the research and studies that have been conducted on this topic have dealt with emigration from an economic standpoint and have turned it into a mathematical operation based on multiplication, subtraction, and division. But this doctor of science has tossed the mathematical questions aside and concerned herself with the human aspect of the problem.

The "brain drain," according to her dissertation, is comprised of a group of humans with flesh, blood, feelings, and emotions. Behind the phenomenon are many strong and hidden motives, causes, and factors that have pushed these people out of their countries. In contrast, there are other powers that have attracted them abroad. These people have borne the burden of travel and have learned the meaning of living away from home.

However, in addition to the brains that have emigrated, there are other Egyptian brains and bodies that adamantly refuse to emigrate or live away from home. The reasons for their refusal are: family ties, religious beliefs, and feelings of complete satisfaction with their accomplishments at work. The majority of this group are university professors in the humanities, social sciences, and literature departments. They believe that they are in a unique position to affect the lives of their students through direct contact with them. Also, there is the personal happiness and pleasure that they experience when their students succeed in life in general after graduation. They are optimistic about the future and, finally, they refuse to emigrate because they have no desire to experience a life away from home.

Is emigration a problem or is it a cure? Who should be allowed to emigrate and who should be prevented from emigrating?

Dr Sunniyah 'Abd-al-Wahhab, the author of the dissertation, says that emigration, in most cases, is considered the solution to an existing problem, whether this problem is personal, social, environmental, educational, political, or economic. However, in very special cases, emigration is considered a problem. This is true when the skills of the emigre are rare or lacking in Egypt. In such cases, the emigre's absence creates a tremendous void, in either the teaching staffs of universities, science centers and organizations, schools, or the workforce in areas such as building and construction, carpentry, maintenance, food production, etc.

Egypt currently suffers from a noticeable glut of people with a higher education. In these cases, emigration actually becomes the solution to an existing problem and an inevitable way out of the problem. The increase in the size of the workforce greatly exceeds the number of positions available. For every job in Egypt there are five or six employees assigned to it. The fact does not escape anyone that the serious phenomenon known as "hidden unemployment" is a great burden on the state. Emigration in these cases becomes very significant, since it eliminates the "hidden unemployment." Also, the emigre's hard currency remittances are considered an indisputable and unconcealable source of income for the state. The existence of a large group of educated people who suffer from neglect because their skills and experience are not utilized would certainly impede the progress of work, paralyze social development, and destroy the unity and solidarity of the people of a society.

However, concerning trained and skilled workers, manual laborers, and professionals, the case is completely different. In fact, they represent the true counterpart to the "brain drain."

Egypt's Fleeing Resource

Some have said that emigration can be a solution and a cure. This conclusion was actually drawn in the scientific analysis of a PhD dissertation after aspects and dimensions of the problem were defined. This conclusion can be accepted or rejected, since it is a scientific opinion. However, by way of contrast, there is another unique and strange fact that imposes itself this time not through university writings, or research, or field studies. Rather, it is present and exists in our daily lives. The fact is this: An Egyptian resource, its skilled and trained workforce, has turned its back on its homeland and fled throughout God's earth to find the dollar, the pound, and awesome material gains. Because they are manual laborers, factory workers, and craftsmen, it is impossible that they have emigrated in order to fulfill themselves, achieve lofty status in academia, continue studies and research in laboratories and centers of science, or seek to acquire the highest levels of learning.

It is true that the actual industrial base in Egypt comprises about 131-133 million workers. But it is also true, as labor experts confirm, that there is a clear and tangible shortage in most types of occupations and at various levels. At the same time, the current educational and training capacity is insufficient to meet this need.

When we ask the reason for this, labor experts say that it is attributable to the absence of practical coordination of the graduates of the various levels of public education and the graduates of technical schools. This is because there is no comprehensive, long-term development plan.

What makes matters worse in the educational process is that technical institutes in Egypt cannot accommodate more than 20 percent of all high school graduates. Through a simple calculation we find that the number of students accepted into universities and institutes of higher learning is four times the number accepted into technical schools. The structure of the workforce in Egypt requires exactly

the opposite. The Central Authority for Mobilization and Statistics announces that there are more than 3 million young people from the ages of 12 to 20 that are found outside the context of technical or public education. It was assumed that they would find places in training institutes.

Although experts and specialists attribute the shortage of trained, technical workers and the noticeable lack of skilled laborers to more than one cause, emigration stands at the top of the list of causes. The number of Egyptian emigres abroad exceeds the wildest imagination. There 4.35 million Egyptian emigres. Of these, 18 percent carry a junior high school certificate or less. Forty-two percent are in one country, Iraq, and in less than 1 year 15,000 people, including specialists, professionals and workers which Egypt urgently needs, have contracted with a single country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Education is the Reason

The educational policy in Egypt, according to management experts, is incapable of educating and graduating a trained craftsman and a skilled worker. On the one hand, there is a clear lack of balance, even a noticeable deficiency, between the educational policy and the structure of the workforce in Egypt. On the other hand, current training capabilities are inadequate. Because of all these things, the actual requirements for people with technical skills is estimated at about 11,000 people per year through the end of 1985, although the current graduation rate from technical training institutes does not exceed 1,800 workers [per year].

Inadequacy..Inadequacy

Due to emigration, the inadequacy of education, and the inability to provide training, Egypt suffers from a tremendous shortage, a severe inability, and an overwhelming inadequacy in most of its vital sectors, sectors in which trained, skilled workers are indispensable in order to avoid a standstill and collapse. These sectors, as defined by management, include the building and construction sector. Investment in this sector is estimated to reach about 232 million pounds by the end of 1985, and the workforce is estimated to include 440,000 workers. However, those trained at existing training centers with their current capabilities will not exceed 9,000 workers.

In addition to building and construction are the following: mechanical work, refrigeration and air conditioning, transportation and communications, maintenance work, operating precision machinery and equipment, food industries, tourism and hotels, nursing, X-ray technology and analysis, dentistry, laboratory work and medical services, and land reclamation. The last category is included because the small amount of investment directed at the countryside and the implantation of industries and services into the cities have contributed to the attraction of untrained workers to the cities. This has resulted in a severe shortage of agricultural workers needed in the countryside.

Shortage..Surplus..One Conclusion

At the end of every study or investigation or discussion of an issue or phenomenon, one must arrive at a specific conclusion. However, because "emigration" from Egypt--whether it involves brains, birds, the workforce, hearts, or bodies--is an extremely complicated and intricate issue due to the many contradictions it involves, the conclusions are more strange, contradictory, and provocative than the issue itself.

There is, for example, a shortage and a surplus at the same time. There is a shortage of skilled, trained workers, and a surplus of university graduates. There is a noticeable inadequacy in the training centers and technical training institutes, and an amazing surplus of young people being trained outside the context of these centers and institutes. There is a clear deficiency in educational policy and an awesome surplus of managers and civil servants. There is a severe shortage of capabilities and equipment at scientific research centers, university laboratories, and higher institutes for academic studies. This is accompanied by a surplus of students and scholars doing research.

There is a shortage of university professors and a surplus of delegations. There is a shortage of people with experience and a surplus of people with qualifications.

There are those who emigrate seeking to find scientific and literary quality and to further their education, growth, and civilized way of life. By way of contrast, there are those who leave seeking to acquire the greatest profit possible and to amass capital in order to build buildings and undertake investment projects.

Let us go back and ask the question: Who should be permitted to emigrate and who should be prevented from emigrating?

First and foremost, can we prevent a human being from exercising his right to travel or emigrate in order to seek prosperity or knowledge? And where is the harm? Does it lie with the emigre who packs his bags and departs, leaving behind the years of his life that he spent in his homeland amid his family, his relatives, and his friends, experiencing failure before success and denial before acceptance, and who tastes pain and the bitterness and harshness of living away from home before he is able to fulfill himself or amass wealth? Or does the harm lie with the workforce and the policies and plans aimed overall at achieving security for the citizen, guaranteeing his prosperity and safety, and providing every opportunity for work, education, and advancement, things which would allow him to live in his country in an honorable and suitable way?

These answers are found both in centers of learning and with management experts. The first answer is found in university dissertations through research and study. The second is derived by labor and management experts through practical experience.

Dr Dunniyah 'Abd-al-Wahhab says that in order to confront the "brain drain" phenomenon science centers equipped with the most modern capabilities must be built. They must be able to accommodate within their walls all types of research that can be produced in a stable scientific atmosphere. These centers and organizations must be supported with adequate funding and they must be linked to manufacturing, production, and services centers. Scholars must be encouraged to stay abreast of scientific conferences in the civilized countries of the world so that they do not lose direct contact with the sciences and their rapid developments. The state must not be stingy with the necessary funding to support this vital scientific contact. Also, there must be an increase in salaries, which would allow scholars to live honorable lives and direct their efforts to science and research rather than dividing their efforts and accepting a lot of commissions to give lectures outside of their colleges and laboratories, something which should only be allowed on rare occasion. It is also necessary that we link educational policy with development plans in terms of quantity and methodology so that there will be a balance between supply and demand in the workforce. By so doing we would limit the noticeable surplus of people that are over-qualified. At the same time, we would work to improve the educational and cultural level of graduates, rather than only focusing on increasing the number of graduates.

None of this means placing restrictions on whoever wants to emigrate. The educated world's concern for this point means a concern for the most important and sacred thing in life, the personal freedom to change one's hopes, aspirations, and future. The government must focus its efforts on supporting contact with the emigres after they have left and trying to benefit from their experiences as much as possible.

12608

CSO: 4504/151

EGYPT

BRIEFS

NASSAR JOINS NEW WAFD--The independent deputy Muntaz Nassar declared at yesterday's People's Assembly session that he was joining the Wafd Party. Thus the party now has six seats in the People's Assembly, occupied by the members Salah Abu Isma'il, Ibrahim 'Awwarah, Hasan al-Jamal, Fikri al-Jazzar, 'Abd-al-Mun'im 'Uthman, and Muntaz Nassar. [Text] [Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 15 Jan 84 p 5]

CSO: 4504/170

MUTHANNA 1984 BUDGET ALLOCATES 5.38 MILLION DINARS

Baghdad THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 13 Jan 84 p 4

[Text] **Named after a great Arab leader, Muthanna Province has had its share of the nationwide development Iraq has been witnessing in all areas over the past 15 years, and despite its infancy a visitor can feel achievements in almost every corner.**

As far as services are concerned and despite the Iranian aggression against Iraq, Muthanna's development and technical departments have undertaken at least 148 projects aimed at improving living conditions and providing necessary services to citizens.

Projects completed or still under construction range from schools to sports clubs distributed among the city of Samawa and the province's sub-districts, and villages. Completed projects include 54 primary schools, 17 in-

termediate schools and 150 houses for government employees.

Another 256 housing units for widows allocated upon the instructions of President Saddam Hussein were also completed - 120 units in Samawa, 70 units in Khidhir, 56 units in Rumaitha.

Four student dormitories, each accommodating 240 students, were among the projects as well as six kindergartens, four school laboratories and two dining halls. A sports club and a theatre were part of the projects in Rumaitha sub-district.

About the 1984 budget, Muthanna's deputy governor said a sum of ID.5.38 million has been allocated to account for a new dental surgery, a health centre, two youth centres, a sports stadium, a cinema, a conference hall and a new theatre.

What about youth activities in the province? Interpreting President Hussein words "win the youth to ensure the future", into actions, Muthanna Province attached great importance to developing youth talents and the body in charge of this task is the branch of the General Federation of Iraqi Youth (GFIY).

Youth are encouraged to enroll in youth centres where they can practice their hobbies and get opportunities to develop their talents. Courses are organized to train youngsters and teenagers on electronics, mechanics and other subjects.

So far 1,440 participants graduated from such courses and those excelling in their fields would move to further courses to further their talents.

CSO: 4400/168

BAGHDAD POWER SHORTAGES OVERCOME

Baghdad THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 13 Jan 84 p 4

[Article by Hussain Cobba]

[Text]

Baghdad has not known any serious or prolonged power cuts for sometime now. Its four million or so inhabitants, thinly spread on its sprawling suburbs spent 1982 without having to lit candle lights or switch on stand-by house generators.

The severist power cuts were in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Hardly any residential area escaped a several hour cut almost every day. The scathing hot summer afternoons were the worst times with the longest and more frequent power cuts. Demand at its peak, it outrun supply capacity causing the shortage and hence the cuts. Sometimes, evenings were also a trouble spot. Still worse cuts at other times struck at random at any time of the day or night.

Like elsewhere in the country rationing power to consumers in Baghdad was essentially the result of extensive demand growth outstripping generating capacity. Higher incomes enabled consumers to acquire more and more electrical appliance particularly cooling and heating equipment. Demand for electrical power

zoomed high as consumption habits moved quickly in favour of clean and relatively cheap electricity.

Also the surge in general economic activities, particularly in industry, had a big impact on demand for electric power.

The shortage in generating capacity in Baghdad has been overcome: thanks to the assiduous efforts exerted in the last three years by the General Electricity Establishment. According to press reports 48 secondary power stations have been installed in a record period of time to ease the pressure. Also old and damaged stations have either been replaced or repaired. Work is now underway to develop and refurbish power networks in ten large residential areas including populous Saddam and Shu'la towns.

Expansion in electric power supply has not been confined to Baghdad. During the last ten years overall generating capacity in Iraq has gone up by more than eight times, which makes the electricity sector among the fastest growing sectors in the economy.

According to the official Annual Abstract of Statistics total electricity output in the country was more than 13000 million Kwh in 1982. The corresponding figure in 1972 was only 2350 million Kwh. In other words during these ten years production was growing at an astounding annual compound rate of 21 percent.

Correspondingly, the number of secondary transmission stations, 132 and 400 Kv jumped up four times, according to the Minister of Industry and Minerals. Power lines, 132 and 400 Kv went

up from 2290 Km long in 1968 to 9300 Km long in 1982.

The biggest accomplishment perhaps has been in the electrification of the countryside. The first phase of the programme has been completed. Mostly implemented during the wartime, it involved extending electric power to 4200 villages spread all over the country. The dimensions of this achievement is best seen against the fact that up to 1968, there were only 250 villages in the entire of the country with electric power.

It is estimated that some 3.5 million people out of the Iraq's rural population, just over four million, now have electric power supply. In the early 1970s only 100,000 rural citizens had power supply.

In the last few years some 11,900 Km long power lines were extended in the countryside, and at least 77 power stations were built and many more expanded.

Work is going on to cover the whole of the countryside with electricity and indeed with potable water. The Ninth Congress of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, held in June 1982, stressed the priority of this goal.

Not only the countryside was to benefit from the big expansion in power supply. Dwellers of urban areas, also industry and commerce, have benefited no less.

This is indicated for example by the number of household subscribers. While in 1968 there were only 600,000 households in the subscribers list of the General Electricity Establishment, we find that the corresponding number rising to over 1.5 million in 1982.

Power consumed by industry rose markedly in the 1970s, particularly in the second half. The boom in industrial activity boosted the consumption of large industrial firms from under 1000 million Kwh in 1974 to more than 2000 Kwh in 1982.

This is significant in as much as indicating that the share of industry out of total power production has not slid down despite the fast growth in household and non industrial consumption.

This gives some comfortable assurance that the social returns on massive public investment in new power generating and ancillary services has been worthwhile.

Available official figures, in the Annual Abstract of Statistics, unfortunately, do

not give the amount of annual public investment on electricity. These are lumped together with spending on water supply.

But still the combined figures indicates that spending on new power generating and transmission stations, high power transmission lines and on distribution networks has been high and continuously rising at least since 1973.

Annual public investment on industry and water was in the range of ID.12 million in 1970. Since then it has gone up from one record to another rising to ID.28.4 million in 1974, up to ID218.5 million in 1979 and double that, ID 445.9 million in 1982.

As a share in total public investment spending on electricity and water accounted for about 8.2 percent in 1982 as against 6 percent in 1970.

The electricity and water sectors have taken increasing numbers of workers on their payroll to match the expansion in operations and investment.

Examination of output and employment levels show that productivity was continuously on the rise, growing by an impressive 5 percent a year since the mid 1970s.

SALAH AL-DIN OFFICIAL VIEWS PROVINCIAL PROGRESS

Baghdad THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 26 Dec 83 p 2

[Text] Agricultural development constitutes a strong pillar of Iraq's economic development plans. These plans aimed at further promoting the overall Iraqi economy.

The Province of Saladdin enjoys a significant status as far as grain and vegetables planting is concerned. This province is also famous for its green houses and oranges gardens.

In an interview with Mr Ibrahim Alwan Mohammed, Director General of the Committee of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform in Saladdin with Al-Jamhuriya daily, he dealt with the horticultural and agricultural specialization in the province.

Mr Mohammed said that Saladdin is well known for its wheat and barley, indoor and outdoor vegetables, as well as oranges, which are mainly planted in the districts of Tikrit and Al-Dhulu'iya.

The total area allocated to the current winter season plantation, amounts to 530,562 thousand acres, the whole of which is now actually planted with wheat, barley, broad beans, onion, green house tomatoes and various other vegetables for the winter season as well as garlic, clover and the like.

Mr Mohammed added that an extra plant-nursery was also allocated for the growing of different fruit, such as pomegranate, grapes, apples, pears, and plums.

He said that they are also about to distribute and sell seedlings among farmers. The total amount of the various seedlings is 700,000.

Mr Mohammed went on to say that the irrigation in this province is mainly dependent on wells.

He pointed out that all the planting prerequisites were provided to the farmers concerned, such as the required seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, as well as 2,000 tons of plastic covers to be extended over the relative harvest.

The Tikrit-Samarra hiway is being sown with various seedlings by the popular work-drive, who are also sowing the forest lands to be of over 1600 acres in Rubaidha, Oja and Toz, the Baghdad-Mosul and the Tikrit-Samarra highways. Moreover, 25,000 acres were allocated to horticulture.

Mr Mohammed also dealt with the "Oja Irrigation Project" which covers an area of 6,000 acres, and the "Tigris Irrigation Project" covering 11,000 acres.

50,000 plastic chests were made available to the farmers, in order to facilitate their transportation, and the subsequent marketing of crops.

Furthermore, a green house projects, comprising fifty separate green houses was established in the district of Baiji. This project, covering an area of 50 acres, is for producing various vegetables for the winter season.

Regarding the animal wealth in the province, Mr Mohammed said that there are a million head of cattle in Saladdin which are well taken care of by 14 veterinary clinics, and 11 centres for artificial impregnation, where all the required drugs prerequisites and veterinary surgeons are available.

Moreover, there are 289 poultry projects, with the annual production capacity of 6 million chickens. These chicken, though currently suffering of shortage in the eggs provided. [as published] Three provender factories were also established, with the production capacity of seven tons per hour. There are also five cattle, and three poultry slaughter houses, both of which are operating under the supervision of the health and veterinary departments.

The Committee of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform in Saladdin held so far twelve education courses, which were attended by 240 farmers. It also held, up to now, 157 meetings provided with exposure of illustrative films, as well as 39 training courses on various relative aspects.

Mr Mohammed concluded his interview by pointing out that there are thirteen departments and seven branches of the committee which are distributed over the various sub-districts of the province. He finally said that several centres were also established to receive the harvest of corn. These centres are in charge of the harvest marketing process in Baiji, Tikrit and Samarra districts. Most of the current corn harvest has been donated in support of the war effort.

CSO: 4400/168

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT 1968-1982 EXAMINED

Baghdad THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 8 Jan 84 p 4

[Article by Dr A. G. al-Atraqchi]

[Text] Iraq's Revolution has taken major steps to establish and deepen the scientific bases of modern agriculture, and to provide the needs for its development. War conditions have not affected the work of agricultural planning and implementation authorities to improve this sector quantitatively and qualitatively. Plans have been put to cover numerous projects, of which we will cover the most significant.

General

About eleven million hectares, i.e. a quarter of the land area of Iraq, are estimated to be suitable for cultivation. Half of this cultivable area is in the rain-fed zone in the north, and the other half is in the irrigated plain of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers system.

Barley and wheat in winter, and rice and cotton in summer are the main crops in the irrigated areas. Wheat and barley dominate the agricultural scene in the northern rain-fed zone. Livestock is reared in both regions. Dates constitute an important crop in the south.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform and the Ministry of Irrigation are responsible for programmes and projects in the agricultural sector. State organizations in the socialist sector and their subsidiaries are directly engaged in both agricultural production or marketing.

After the Revolution of 17-30 July 1968, in 1970 the country witnessed the enactment of a comprehensive agrarian reform law, under which land has been allocated to each farming family with due regard to the income-earning potential of the land and the availability of water.

Agricultural Policy and Plan

The main policy measure governing the agricultural plan is the concentration on vertical, as distinct from horizontal, expansion. A corollary measure is the adoption of an integrated approach in the major projects included

in the central government's investment programme which is the national development plan.

Other emphasis in the agricultural plan and policy:

1. To act in support of policy which requires the creation of new economic resources to raise national income and reduce dependence on oil and the main source providing the needs for development.
2. To protect the national independence in terms of food supplies.
3. The renovation and development of socialist farms so that they could take the lead in the effort to expand production and, in general, act as appropriate demonstration models for cultivators.
4. The strengthening of cooperatives and extension services to enable them to assume additional responsibilities and with a view to improving their efficiency.
5. The fostering of Agricultural Bank so as to enlarge the agricultural credit programme.
6. The attachment of priority to farm machinery in the import programme and the provision of machinery maintenance and repair stations.
7. Also noteworthy in this context are focusing of attention on increasing cropping intensities and, secondly, the upgrading of livestock. Yet another important policy measure is the decision to formulate a water balance covering surface water as well as ground water.

Development in Agricultural Sector

The years of the Revolution have witnessed a remarkable development in the agricultural sector which plays an outstanding role in sustaining the national economy. The Revolution has exerted great efforts to introduce the most modern achievements of science and technology into agriculture with substantial effects on production as compared with traditional methods.

The Revolution has made strong endeavours for the socialist sector in the form of cooperatives to occupy the decisive and leading role in the sphere of agricultural production in order to change relationships of production based on exploitation into developed socialist relationships.

Total Allocation

The total allocation for this sector in 1981 amounted to 681 million Iraqi dinars in comparison to the total allocation in 1976 which was 268 million Iraqi Dinars, and which was increased by over 2.5 times more during the period. (See table)

Agricultural Finance

The total loans of the agricultural cooperative bank provided to farmers have increased from 1.9 million Iraqi Dinars to 98.3 million dinars.

Agricultural Cooperative Movement

The number of agricultural cooperatives increased from 473 in 1968 to about 2,000 in 1982. The number of members rose from 65,000 in 1968 to 395,000 in 1982.

Land Reclamation

Works covered by 1976-80 plan were expected to reach 3,320,000 donums of irrigation and drainage systems. Area of reclaimed land was expected to reach about 900,000 donums by the end of 1980. The existing national development plan, 1981-85, is expected to reclaim and prepare for use areas of land reaching 2,045,000 donums.

Chemical fertilizers

Over 250,000 tons of chemical fertilizers were provided for various producing sections in agriculture, compared to 30,000 in 1968.

Agricultural Mechanization

The number of tractors and harvesters used in agriculture rose to more than 25,000 units compared to 10,000 units in 1968.

Pest Control

Area covered by agricultural pest control reached over seven million donums compared with only 2.8 million donums before the revolution.

Livestock Resources

Over 20 projects were set up to raise lambs and calves. In 1982 the number of sheep and goats raised reached over 450,000 in addition to fattening over 120,000 lambs and over 12,000 calves. The livestock numbers in Iraq as a result of 1978 survey were 9.7 million sheep and 2.1 million goats and 1.7 million cows.

Many modern slaughterhouses were established in various provinces.

Egg production reached about 1000.0 million, which is 16 times more than the period of 1968-79. Poultry meat production reached over 65,000 tons in 1982 compared to 4,000 in 1968.

Allocations for agricultural sector in annual plans 1976 and 1981 (summary):

(Million Iraqi Dinar)

<u>Projects</u>	<u>Allocation</u> 1976	<u>Allocation</u> 1981
Storage and food control	26.0	182.4
Irrigation and drainage	63.5	163.6
Land reform	17.3	97.2
Agr. product	63.6	56.0
Livestock produce	45.5	88.2
Agr. service	51.1	91.4
Others	1.0	2.2
Total	268.0	681.0

CSO: 4400/168

HOUSING PROJECTS USE SOLAR ENERGY

Baghdad THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 9 Jan 84 p 4

[Article by Afaf Issa]

[Text] Abu Nawas housing project is the first in Iraq to use solar energy for air-conditioning. The cooling and heating systems operate through solar collectors fixed on the roof of each housing unit, covering about three quarter of the area of the roof. However, during cloudy days, auxiliary energy for operating the air-conditioning system is generated by two boilers; one for cooling and the other for heating.

For sometime kerosen will be used as fuel when gas-pipes are connected, kerosene will be replaced by natural gas. The system is operated by a control board in the engine room. Airflow and temperature are regulated by special knobs fixed at each flat.

Light absorbtion is often obstructed by accumulating dust on the solar panels. This, of course, reduces the amount of energy obtained from the solar cells.

Another obstruction happens in the cooling system when the water pipes are

blocked by layers of calsium deposits on the inside of the pipes. The pipes, then, need descaling to maintain free flow of water to the cooling system. A situation like this requires special maintenance service. Hence, consideration has been taken to provide engineers and a technical staff for this purpose.

Great interest is shown in research and studies in the various solar energy applications not only in Iraq but also in a number of Arab countries and elsewhere in the world.

It is really interesting to know that the energy rate of sunshine in the Arab countries ranges between 3000-3000 hours per year. Iraq, in particular, enjoys 320 days of sunshine per year.

Surely, with such solar energy potential, together with the scientific expertise and researches, the Arab world can become a biggest producer of thermal, electric and hydrogen energy in the world. Besides, investment in solar energy does not require highly sophisticated

technology and huge funds, as it is the case with the costly nuclear power.

Tracing back history, the Arab ancestors were the first nation that thought of utilizing solar energy for various purposes. In the 15th century AD they succeeded in desalinating water by using concave mirrors accurately oriented towards the sun to collect and focuss sun rays on a glass bowl full with water. The high temperature concentrated to help evaporate the water into another bowl.

The Arabs were also the first to introduce the flat-roof system of building as a best means to utilize solar energy. Moreover, initiatives of steady and practical scientific research and applications in this field remained very limited and confined to few Arab countries until this decade. This situation has eventually prompted the establishment of Arab Organization for Solar Energy. The prime objectives of the organization is to promote and coordinate

mutual scientific efforts in developing solar energy technology in the Arab world, encourage research and studies in this sphere and maintain close and constant contact with similar international organizations. Accordingly, regular gatherings and conferences are held where research papers, data and various applications in solar energy are reviewed and discussed.

This is in addition to issuing periodicals and magazines providing up-to-date information, innovations and applied research in solar energy.

Iraqi scientists have a keen interest to pursue studies and research in solar energy. Holding national conferences are organized in cooperation with similar international organizations. The latest national event was the second conference organized by the Centre for Solar

Energy Research (CSER) in Baghdad during which best means of utilizing solar energy were discussed and a large number of Arab and foreign scientists and researchers participated. Apart from these activities and contributions, various scientific applications have been carried out by the CSER. It has designed and built the first experimental solar-energy house on the grounds of the Council for Scientific Research in Baghdad. The house is, firstly, an experiment in utilizing solar energy for air-conditioning, generating electricity for illumination and supplying domestic hot water requirements. Secondly it makes a nice guest house for visitors of the council. The total area of the house is 600 square meters and the built area is 400 square meters. It consists of sitting, dining rooms, bedrooms and other facilities. The function board, auxiliary boilers, cooling and

heating, electricity and water purification control systems are located in the engine room within the house.

Solar collectors are fixed on roofs with an area of 243 square meters and with a calculated angle of 15 degrees. This will help absorb, as much as possible, solar radiation during summer time in Baghdad. Hot water and additional energy are kept in large reservoirs.

The whole project is under constant study and observation so as accurate assessment can be made on the efficiency of solar-based systems.

Meanwhile, measuring the solar radiation that reaches the surface of earth is an important activity carried out by the CSER. For this work, modern devices and equipment are supplied and personnel concerned are trained and regularly acquainted with necessary data and information in this respect.

CSO: 4400/168

TOWN OF JERICHO FACES ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 8 Jan 84 p 8

[Article by Ahmad 'Abd Ahmad: "Jericho... City of Date Palm and Oranges, Why Does it Suffer From Agricultural, Commercial and Tourist Recession?"]

[Excerpts] Although agriculture in Jericho these days is undergoing a reversal, it is the severest reversal that it has ever faced in the past, grave and harsh.

There is recession and stagnation in other areas, in commerce and in tourism, to which has also been added a recession in work.

Unemployment among its men is spreading.

In a meeting with the head of the Chamber of Commerce for the Jericho area, Talib Yasin Makii, who has held that post since 1973, he spoke about that agricultural recession.

"Agriculture of Jericho's fertile lands, as is well known, was the poorest this year of anyplace in the world, or rather, it was a reversal the likes of which has not been seen for 30 years!

"The causes are:

1. Decline in vegetable prices this season, which has led to some farmers refusing to harvest their crops. For example, one crate of eggplant or peppers is selling for 40 shekels, whereas the costs of transportation, municipal fees and commissions equal 27 shekels. This is what causes farmers not to pick their crops or bring them to market.
2. The rise in the costs of agricultural tools and equipment, such as plastic sheeting, hoses, fertilizer, plowing and seeds.
3. The stopping of exports of agricultural products to the East Bank. This is due to the fact that the East Bank's production of the same kind of products is constantly increasing. Last year, bananas were the only agricultural crop that we exported to the East Bank. Note that the Jordanian government is fully prepared to give the farmers of Jericho the

required permits to enable them to export their various crops to the East Bank, but the decline in prices there, and the plethora of the same kind of products, deters the farmers of Jericho from exporting.

4. There is another reason. And that is the increase in the amount of salt in some of the artesian wells in the Jericho area which, in the nature of the case, has led to the farmers being unable to cultivate bananas in particular, in large areas of their land because of this sale!

"I would like to add to all that I have mentioned about the agricultural crisis in Jericho that one of these crates is sold to the broker for 98 shekels. The selling company stipulates that they be returned empty for the amount of 50 shekels per crate. In the nature of things, this results in the farmers taking a substantial loss."

Concerning the commercial recession, the head of the Jericho Chamber of Commerce said that its causes were as follows:

"1. It is very natural, especially in a city like Jericho, for an agricultural reversal to lead to a recession in commerce in the city, and as a direct result.

2. The continuous demands by the Israeli authorities on the merchants of Jericho to pay the supplementary tax, which is 15 percent. This leads to the merchants' monetary deficits, in view of the prevailing commercial recession.

3. The income tax makes things worse. Notices were sent to some of the merchants in the city demanding that they pay large amounts, ranging from 180,000 to 300,000 shekels, although there were those among them who, basically, could not pay the supplementary tax, because of a shortage of capital. We sent a letter to the director of income tax in Bethlehem, in which we explained at length everything concerning the poor economic situation in the city. We asked him to reconsider the amounts set forth in those tax notices."

Talib Yasin Makki, the head of the Jericho Chamber of Commerce, then turned to the stagnation that is affecting the tourist business in the Jericho area.

"Before 1967, tourism was flourishing. Today, the situation has changed, and this was caused by a number of reasons, the most important being:

1. The consistently high prices that have direct repercussions on those places connected with the tourist business. As an example, the recreation areas frequented by tourists have become an indirect obstacle to the development of tourism, since these areas for their part have become the victim of high prices and the plethora of taxes, which have forced their owners to increase the price of their services to tourists and visitors who, for their part, then refuse to patronize them.

2. The harassments, to which visitors to Jericho's recreation areas are subjected, by policemen who are quick to write up random violations by vehicle owners, merely for parking a car near a store in order to purchase something. This is in fact a matter that should not be endured. If we wish to be more candid, we ought to tell the policeman that he is there to serve visitors and to make things easier for them, not to 'throw them out.'

"There is another problem which, in my opinion, vividly demonstrates the economic crisis from which Jericho is suffering. That is the problem of the employees who are paid in shekels. These salaries are constantly eroded at the end of each month, which leads to a reduction in their value and, consequently, a cash shortfall for these employees.

Regarding the unemployment among the youth of the city and most of its suburbs, youths who are graduates of institutes and universities, this--in the city of Jericho itself--is a tragedy that speaks for itself!"

After a detailed discussion of this unfortunate situation taking place in the city of Jericho, the head of the Jericho Chamber of Commerce, Talib Yasin Makki, went on to say:

"However, we have demands, which we have the right to declare. They can be summarized as follows:

1. We call on the Jordanian government in particular, and the Arab governments in general, to give the city of Jericho the material support required for its farmers and merchants, so as to restore life to the agricultural sector and so that the Jericho Palestinian farmer can remain steadfast on his land and in his town. Likewise, the revival of commerce will permit the merchant to remain steadfast to his town.

2. With regard to the Israeli authorities, we call on them to excuse the merchants completely from the taxes for which they are liable, in view of the commercial recession in Jericho and its region."

7005

CSO: 4404/309

BRIEFS

TEACHERS' SALARY DEMANDS--The Public Committee for Government School Teachers in the West Bank renewed its commitment to demand a 100 percent increase in teachers' salaries, and to call on the authorities concerned to expedite compliance with the teachers' demands. It also called on the teachers to stand fast for their demands and not to give up. The public committee's statement, which was issued last Friday, concerning teachers' salaries during 1983, reported that the average salary in January 1983 was 12,474 shekels or 125 dinars, while in December 1983, it was 27,170 shekels or 87 dinars. The statement added that it was clear that the teachers, throughout 1983 had obtained increases amounting to 118 percent as compensation for the rising prices, which in the same period had registered a 175 percent increase. The decline in the value of salaries has occurred as a result of the 30 percent drop in the value of the shekel. The value of the average teacher's salary must be 38,043 shekels in order to compensate for increased prices and the drop in the currency's value. [Text] [Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 11 Jan 84 p 4] 7005

CSO: 4404/309

ASSEMBLY REJECTS PLAN TO SET UP ARMS INDUSTRY

Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 25 Jan 84 pp 1, 4

[Text] KUWAIT's National Assembly yesterday rejected a motion tabled by one of its 50 members to set up an independent arms industry.

They said the motion was rejected by 28 votes to eight.

Defense Minister, Shaykh Salim Al Sabah told the chamber that committees of the GCC had discussed issues related to the arming of the six member nations, and noted the establishment of an arms industry "requires raw materials and highly-qualified technical expertise."

He said that a local armaments industry was beyond Kuwait's human material capabilities, and denied that Kuwait's arms purchases were made through intermediaries.

Concept

Shaykh Salim agreed to the general concept of the motion but explained that Kuwait's political as well as military situation make the idea of an indigenous arms industry untenable.

In this respect, he indicated Kuwait's policy of diversifying weapon supplies and denied that arms purchases were concluded through intermediaries but rather through direct contact with the concerned governments.

The defense chief hoped that the issue of an armament industry be left for consideration by the six-member GCC which, he said, is much qualified for such an undertaking given its pool of available resources and collective efforts.

The Assembly then gave a first reading to a government draft law on the establishment of the Islamic Medicine Organisation.

The debate started with Deputy Jasim Al-'Awn calling for more attention for Islamic medicine, and the use of honey and other medicinal items mentioned in the Quran and the sayings of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH).

He also urged the following of Islamic traditions in hospitals, saying that male doctors should not examine women and patients should be urged to perform their religious duties.

He said that a search should be started for substitutes to alcohol and narcotics used in drugs, and the opinion of Islamic sharia (law) should be obtained on modern problems, such as milk banks and organ transplants.

The Health Minister said the government wanted the Assembly to ratify the establishment of the organisation because it was an international one.

Deputy Salim al-Hammad demanded the appointment of Muslim doctors to important posts in the organisation.

Deputy al-Juhaydali said the organization would be based in Kuwait with branches in foreign countries.

al-'Awn proposed changing the name of the organisation to "The Islamic Medical Sciences Organisation" and this was approved.

Reserves

Deputies Khalid al-Suntan, al-'Awn, Mishari al-'Anjjari, Mahammad al-Mirshid and MurayKhan Sa'd proposed adding a new article to the charter to enable taking KD 500,000 from the state reserves to set up the organisation. This was approved, but the Justice Minister pointed out that the organisation did not need such a large sum.

The Assembly returned a draft law submitted by Deputy Muhammad al-Rushayd on amending the labour law for the private sector with regard to domestic servants and other workers. The Justice Minister pointed out that the new residence law dealt with the matter. The draft was returned to the social and health committee of the Assembly, as Deputy al-Rushayd said the committee had not called him to the discussion on his draft law.

CSO: 4400/163

DISAGREEMENTS WITHIN THE NATIONAL SALVATION FRONT REPORTED

Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 21 Jan 84 p 19

[Article: "Disagreements Between the Main Figures in the Lebanese National Salvation Front"]

[Text] There is unanimous agreement in Lebanese political circles concerning rumors of the existence of disputes and certain contradictions between the main leadership figures of the National Salvation Front. These disputes are the results of differences in their points of view concerning a series of issues and topics of a military and political character. Signs of these disputes have begun to appear via references in the press and statements issued by the leading figures of this front. These men are former President of the Republic Sulayman Franjiyah, former Prime Minister Rashid Karami, and the president of the Progressive Socialist Party, Walid Junblatt. In addition, talke is being heard behind the scenes that indicates that the relationship between the major figures of the National Salvation Front (NSF) has reached a decisive and critical stage, as a result of the conflict between their positions.

Informed sources indicate that Syria's leaders, who have a solid relationship with the leading figures of the NSF, are trying on more than one level to mend the crack and prevent the disputes among the main figures of the Lebanese opposition from peaking, especially between Franjiyah and Junblatt. Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam has been intrusted with carrying out these efforts, with the goal of restoring the ties between the main figures of the NSF and removing the causes of the disputes that have shaken these ties, in an attempt to preserve the internal unity of the opposition under the circumstances currently experienced by Lebanon.

The Official Syrian-Lebanese Relationship

While some Lebanese circles point to the effort undertaken by Foreign Minister Khaddam to arrange an expected visit by Junblatt to both Tripoli and Zagharta, in order to hold a joint meeting with Franjiyah and Karami and disperse the atmosphere of disagreement, informed sources expressed their belief that some Syrian officials are behind the escalation of the disputes among the leaders of the opposition, under the current circumstances.

These sources base their belief on a series of recent events and developments on the Lebanese scene. It is not considered unlikely that the price of this Syrian position is a rapprochement in official Lebanese-Syrian relations. The dimensions of this rapprochement have begun to be made clear by the official Lebanese political and military delegations that undertake successive, almost daily visits to Damascus, in the context of discussing the security plan connected with the explosive situation in the southern suburb of Beirut, the mountain, the Shuf, and the province of al-Kharub.

These sources do not think it unlikely that Syria is trying to cause a split in the relationship between the leading figures of the NSF because it wants to go back to holding all the cards in the Lebanese crisis. This would assure Damascus favorable circumstances. Given tension in the relationship between the leading figures of the nationalist opposition, Syria would be able to discuss the Lebanese question directly with the Lebanese government in place of the nationalist forces. This would assure its interests in Lebanon. This is all similar to the Syrian position in 1976, when Damascus supported the Franjiyah government and the Isolationist Front, including the Phalange Party and its allies.

The Opposition's Disagreements in Geneva

In expectation of what Junblatt's visit to Franjiyah and Karami might produce, if it occurs, the sources confirm that the disagreements between the opposition leaders and the contradictions existing between their positions go back to the period when the national dialogue conference was being held by the Lebanese leaders in the Swiss capital of Geneva.

During the conference, Junblatt seemed to take hard-line positions vis-a-vis the government, and in particular Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil and the Lebanese Front, which was represented by Camille Sham'un and Pierre al-Jumayyil. He began with matters having to do with the nature of the tasks of the Lebanese Army and the causes of the local conflict on the Lebanese scene. He also dealt with some other political matters on the conference's agenda. Former Prime Minister Karami and Nabih Birri, the head of the leadership council of the Amal Movement, supported Junblatt's hard-line positions, which were obvious from the very beginning of the Geneva conference. At the same time, Franjiyah surprised both those present and those who followed the events at the conference by taking less hard-line positions. These positions made it seem that Franjiyah was supporting al-Jumayyil's government, thereby abandoning all his earlier positions, which had been firmly against the Phalange Party and the al-Jumayyil family in particular. He had held such views since the death of his son, former Minister Tony Franjiyah, at the hands of the Phalangist militia. The plan came from Bashir al-Jumayyil.

Thus, there was a contradiction in the positions of the leaders of the opposition front. Franjiyah and Junblatt stood on opposite sides of a dispute mediated by Karami, who adopted a moderate position. At the time, those following the Geneva conference thought that all this was a maneuver by the NSF.

However, the developments that followed the Geneva stage confirmed that Franjiyah's position in support of the al-Jumayyil government, as it was expressed during the national dialogue conference, would not have come out in this way had there not been changes in the Syrian position itself on al-Jumayyil. Franjiyah has a solid relationship with the leaders in Damascus. The picture clarified after Franjiyah's return to his town of Zagharta, in the midst of the signs of celebrations that accompanied the beginning of a stage of political courtship between Franjiyah and al-Jumayyil. This stage was followed by a steady stream of government representatives coming to Zagharta. Maronite personalities and representatives of forces that had disagreed with Franjiyah in past years came as well. This was considered a new page in the relationship between Franjiyah and the Phalange Party, as represented by Amin al-Jumayyil.

Karami's Annoyance at the Change in Franjiyah's Position

These positions of Franjiyah's, which went beyond a truce with the government to become support and backing for al-Jumayyil, emerged as the former president's ally in the NSF, Walid Junblatt, was entering the battle of the mountain against the Phalangist militias, which were supported by the Lebanese Army. Even sources close to their ally, former Prime Minister Karami, did not hide their annoyance at the change in Franjiyah's positions, especially given the fact that he organized celebrations in support of his new positions in his town of Zagharta, which is only 4 kilometers away from Tripoli, while that city was burning with the flames of battles raging within it. This produced negative reactions in Tripolitanian circles, which, despite their wounds and the disasters that have befallen them, still maintain their announced positions on the government and its sectarian institutions, which are dominated by the Phalange Party and its allies.

Where is Franjiyah Headed?

Informed persons in Tripoli believe that relations with Zagharta have reached a very critical stage as a result of these positions taken by Franjiyah, especially after the escalation of his campaign against the head of the PLO, Yasir 'Arafat, which occurred after 'Arafat left Tripoli.

The sharpness of the disputes between the leading figures in the NSF has been increased by Franjiyah, who has taken still more steps in support of the government of Amin al-Jumayyil. A while ago, he announced his disapproval of "any aggression against the Lebanese Army, under any circumstances and by any party whatsoever." He also condemned "attempts to push the army into battles being waged in the mountain and the regions of the Shuf." Thus, he expressed the view that the army had no plan to attack the armed groups present in the mountain, meaning the forces of the Progressive Socialist Party, which is headed by Junblatt. He thought that parties were trying to pull the army into these battles.

These statements by Franjiyah were received by different Lebanese circles with surprise, for they contained fundamental changes in Franjiyah's position toward the army. Until recently, he had described it as a Phalangist army serving the purposes and interests of the Phalange Party.

Karami issued no comment on the statements of his ally Franjiyah, for reasons having to do with the situation in northern Lebanon. He was also trying to avoid a conflict between Zagharta and Tripoli, given the current circumstances. However, Junblatt attacked Franjiyah's statements. At a talk he gave in his home at al-Mukhtarah, in the Shuf, he described them as "a slip of the tongue." He was satisfied to say only that: "Perhaps those surrounding former President Franjiyah have not placed him in the right atmosphere. At any rate, we will meet with him soon and discuss the matter with him. We refuse to allow the army our areas (the mountain, the province of al-Kharub, and the southern suburb) before a political solution is reached."

A new point of contention between Franjiyah and Junblatt emerged recently when the former announced his support for the security plan that the government intends to implement in the mountain, al-Kharub, and the suburb, with Saudi-Syrian backing. The plan calls for the army to enter these areas and take over the task of maintaining security in them. Junblatt made his rejection of the plan clear, after a series of meetings intended to remove the obstacles facing it. He thereby confirmed that he still had reservations about the army and the path followed by the government, and that these reservations required that a political solution be reached with the agreement of all the faction leaders before the implementation of the proposed security plan.

Thus, local circles are betting on how long the cohesion among the leading figures in the NSF will last, while the indications show that the points of disagreement among them are growing in number as a result of numerous factors. Can the causes of these contradictions be overcome? Will the leaders of the NSF return in solidarity to the second Geneva conference, which is supposed to be held in Riyadh, or have the disagreements reached the point of no-return, despite the consequences that might arise from this possibility. They include the scuttling of the second dialogue conference, especially now that it has been suggested that the situation on the Lebanese scene will be frozen for a few months or years in expectation of the results that the American presidential elections might produce. In addition, developments might occur on the level of Syrian-Lebanese relations, on the one hand, and Syrian-American relations, on the other, in the aftermath of the new shuttle tour by the American representative to the Arab region and his visit to Damascus. The possibility of a Syrian-American rapprochement has appeared on the horizon, and Washington has welcomed the idea of holding a summit meeting with Damascus. All this followed the release of the American flier by the Syrian leadership. This move was followed by contacts and talks that dealt with some aspects of the situation in Lebanon and the Middle East question.

12224

CSO: 4404/322

SHAYKH 'ABD-AL-HAFIZ QASIM OF WEST BEIRUT INTERVIEWED

Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 19 Jan 84 p 30

[Interview with Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hafiz Qasim of West Beirut, an opponent of the Phalange Party and its militias, by AL-QABAS: at his home, date not specified]

[Text] Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hafiz Qasim, otherwise known as al-Shaykh al-Ahmar, has a shining name in Beirut, now that his sermons have reached mosques both near and far. Shaykh Qasim has become famous for propagating revolt in the mosques against the Lebanese Phalange Party and its armed militias. The most notable thing about him on this level is the boldness with which he has brought out the facts and exposed sensitive matters. He has taken a firm position in opposition to the government's policy.

The latest event which sounded like a clap of thunder over Beirut was Shaykh Qasim's announcement that the formation of an Islamic military council had begun, in order to defend the rights of the Muslims and confront the Phalangist War Council.

Some people in Beirut accuse the revolutionary shaykh of blind extremism and sectarian incitement, while others see in his movement a realistic response to the results of the Phalangist attack on the Islamic and nationalist community.

This bold shaykh, whose picture has been pasted to the walls of the city of Beirut, and who has surrounded himself with helpers, onlookers, and enemies, has been accused by the Phalange Party of attacking the Christians of West Beirut. His sermons have resisted official censorship. His voice echoes through the broadcasts of the Voice of Arab Lebanon (the radio of al-Murabitun) and reaches all of Lebanon's regions. How does he think? What are his interests? How does he view what is happening on the public level? According to those close to him, he interests himself in the simplest affairs of the people.

AL-QABAS met with Shaykh Qasim and interviewed him in his humble home, where one can find a lot of smoking and tea drinking, and where a lot of contacts are made!

Brave Resistance

[Question] Can you clarify the position of the Muslims on the fundamental issues on the Lebanese scene?

[Answer] The positions of the Muslims on the issues present on the Lebanese scene have become very well known. They can be summarized by the completely positive attitude shown by the Muslims toward any glimmer of hope that appears on the horizon and tends toward solving the Lebanese crisis, whose fuse was lit 9 years ago. For example, this positive attitude attained its summit when the Muslims expressed their joy and sense of connection with the national dialogue conference held in Geneva. All Lebanese had dreamt of this conference for a long time, out of a desire to see reconciliation, security, and peace return to the land of Lebanon. Similarly, the Islamic position has been positive and will remain so with respect to Lebanon's unity as a country and a people, as well as with respect to its Arab character and its continued existence as an independent, sovereign, free entity.

As for the negative position taken by the Muslims, it has not been directed against their country for a single day. Rather, they have expressed it via their absolute rejection of every enemy who has set foot on the land of their country, no matter how much the excuses used by these enemies might differ. Therefore, we find that the Lebanese are bravely confronting the Israeli enemy who occupies the land of the south. The enemy is drinking cups of death at the hands of the heroes and scholars of the south. Moreover, the Muslims have used their caravans of martyrs to express their sincere desire not to see the government make deadly mistakes like the 17 May agreement with the Zionist enemy. The agreement embodies the idea of disgrace on paper. This is unacceptable to any free Lebanese who knows that Israel's projects are intended only to bring destruction and havoc to Lebanon and the Arab world. The Muslims' rejection of this agreement is a rejection of the Israeli hegemony that wants to control Lebanon by means of the agreement. Moreover, our rejection of this hegemony stems from our rejection of any attempt to establish dictatorial control or hegemony, whether it comes from inside the country or outside it. Thus, we desire nothing but to see Lebanon rid of all the causes of its suffering, which have brought it to the tribulation it is stumbling about in now.

[Question] Do you think there is a unified Islamic position on all these issues?

[Answer] The Islamic position is completely unified on this level, as well as on the others. This has been shown on dozens of occasions and through dozens of positions taken by the Muslims with unified hearts and hands. The Muslims have agreed unanimously on a single opinion with firmness, steadfastness, and insistence. There is no lack of this, may God be praised and exalted.

A War Against Privileges

[Question] Though the Islamic position may be unified, some say it is not active. In your opinion, what is the reason for that?

[Answer] Although the effectiveness of the unified Islamic position still hasnot been demonstrated through the realization of that for which all Muslims and citizens yearn, this does not mean that the Islamic position is ineffective. Rather, it points out that the steadfastness and obstinacy of those who possess privileges, as well as their insistence on maintaining the illegitimate gains granted to them by the French mandate. On the basis of these privileges, they thought Lebanon was their farm. Maronite political power devoured Lebanon and divided up the country's resources within its own narrow framework. At the same time, Maronite power deprived the rest of the Lebanese people of all their natural rights, which the different administrations were supposed to assure. Such was the mentality of the government during the various administrations. In accordance with Western concepts and the desires of foreigners, the government made Lebanon into a plantation for the small portion of the population with which Maronite political power was concerned. Maronite power was excessive in its errors and in its contempt for the feelings of the Lebanese and their right to secure their rights and regain from the ruling group by various means after it had become clear during the last 40 years that the group exploiting Lebanon did not want to concede anything at all. Thus, all of us are betting that the effectiveness of the unified Islamic position will bear fruit soon, with God's permission. Then we and the other citizens will gain what we have been deprived of for so long.

[Question] What form do you envision for wresting these rights?

[Answer] It is in the nature of the Lebanese people to love peace and stability. They have wanted and still want to see their demands achieved by peaceful and legitimate means. The Muslims among the Lebanese people also love peace. Therefore, no violent formula exists for wresting our rights. Rather, we hope that the men in the government in Lebanon will feel, even if only for a single time, the suffering undergone by the people, who have been expelled from their homes, kidnapped, subjugated, and detained. They are broke, unemployed, and looking for something to eat. If these men do not feel the necessary things, the people will know how to wrest their rights from those whom the government has favored over the rest of the citizenry.

Paralysis

[Question] What about those who represent the Muslims in the government?

[Answer] Unfortunately, the representation given by these people to the Muslims has become paralyzed as a result of the autocratic administration of the Phalange Party, which exercises hegemony and control over the utilities, institutions, and official administration of the state. Thus, the desires

of Muslim deputies and officials can find expression only in the pages of the newspapers and magazines. They have no chance of being translated into reality. Perhaps this is one of the reasons why the Lebanese crisis has been difficult to solve so far. Although the constitution does not say so, we in Lebanon have come to feel that the system of government is presidential. The role of the prime minister and the ministers has been pushed aside. Departments are set up on the basis of decrees and official decisions. Through these things, the Phalange Party is trying to establish its hegemony over the ministries of the state and their departments. For example, take a look at the Office of National Economic Relations. Everyone in Lebanon knows that its creation paralyzed four ministries. These ministries cannot act without the signature of the general director responsible for this office. If we add to that case everything else, we will know the extent of the oppression suffered by the people and the country as a result of this Phalangist group, which forms the spear head of Maronite political power. It is the tool used by Maronite power to establish hegemony, control, and domination over the country. This group has occupied the port of Beirut and some of the city's Christian areas. It has penetrated some Muslim areas and undertaken acts of sabotage there, despite the presence of the Lebanese army. The army offers no resistance to the excesses and acts of sabotage committed by this party. Thus, we cannot bear the responsibility for those who represent the Muslims while the government ignores the acts of the Christian Phalange Party. Moreover, this government is trying to attack and paralyze the will of the Muslims by frustrating and thwarting the will of their representatives in the government.

[Question] Are we to understand from this that your call for the formation of an Islamic military council is intended to give the Muslim position strength and influence in the face of the things to which the Muslims are exposed?

[Answer] I will not hide anything from you. I announced my proposal and called on Muslims with the right specialization to realize it in the form of an Islamic military council. It would have everything to do with the oppression, sorrow, injustice, and tyranny suffered by Muslim citizens in Lebanon. In addition to being deprived of their rights, the Muslims no longer feel secure about their lives and those of their families and children. This is especially true given the presence of a Phalangist-Christian war council that works day and night to drop explosives on the Muslim quarters and make traps out of automobiles, which are loaded with explosives and left on Muslim streets. As a result of these explosions, hundreds of Muslims have recently been wounded or martyred in various Islamic areas. In addition, this Phalangist war council has kidnapped male and female Muslim citizens. They have disappeared from the sight of their relatives for long months, and they have been deprived of their freedom. In addition, they have been tortured and exposed to various kinds and varieties of revenge. All this and more has happened, and the Muslims have begun to feel that they need special protection. They feel that the army and the various forces at the command of the authorities have seemed and still seem to be incapable and paralyzed in the face of Phalangist

oppression and the dominant mentality controlling the system of government in Lebanon. Thus, there seem to be clear and obvious connections between my suggestion and the painful situation being experienced by the Muslims.

By making my suggestion, I wanted only to extricate the Muslims from the sea of pain and tragedy in which they live and make them strong. Lebanon's return to well-being is linked to the strength of the Muslims, not their weakness.

An Islamic Militia

[Question] This means that a new militia will arise on the Lebanese scene next to the others. What are the positive and negative aspects of this step?

[Answer] I will answer briefly. Let us suppose that the state disarms the Phalangist militias in Greater Beirut and closes down and destroys the Phalangist War Council. Let us suppose it rebuilds the Mosque of Khalid ibn al-Walid and the homes of the Muslims on the site of this council, which took the place of the mosque and the homes. Let us further suppose that those who have been kidnapped, who number more than 3000, are released, while the Muslim citizens begin to feel that their dignity will be preserved and that Lebanon is for them, as it is for others. Let us suppose that they begin to receive their rights, as well. In that case, there will be no reason for the Muslim to carry out my suggestion to them and set up an Islamic military council to protect themselves and the existence of the Muslims in Lebanon.

The Phalange Has Killed Christians in the Opposition

[Question] You have mentioned more than once the expression Phalangist-Christian. Do you distinguish between Christianity and Phalangist thought?

[Answer] You are the representative of the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS. This is a special interview for that newspaper in our sister country of Kuwait. So that there will be misunderstanding in the minds of your Arab readers there, and least they think that the Phalangists are Muslims, I have said repeatedly that they are Christians. They are truly part of the Christian environment. Although they do not represent all the Christians, the Phalangist firearms that carry the Phalangist rifles belong to the sons of Christians who have presented them to this party, either willingly or unwillingly. Thus, they have fought the Muslims. Of course, Christian Lebanese circles do contain an element opposed to the Phalange Party, its armed forces, its acts, and the violence it practices on the ground against the Muslims and those Christians who are opposed to it. We should mention here that this Fascist party moved to liquidate and kill the supporters of the Christian-Maronite former president, Camille Sham'un, although he heads the Lebanese Front, which includes the president of the Phalange Party. The Phalangists stormed the home of his son and almost killed his wife and daughter, after having killed hundreds of his supporters. This was done to prepare the way for the extension of the hegemony and

control of the Phalange Party alone over the Christian areas. We also recall how the Phalangist armed forces went and assassinated Deputy Tony Franjiyah and the members of his family. They stormed his house and killed him, his family, and his supporters. He was the son of the former President of the Republic Sulayman Franjiyah. We also remember their repeated attempts to assassinate Mr Raymond Iddih, the former nominee for the presidency of the Lebanese republic. If this is how the Phalangists behave with the Christians who oppose them, how will they treat the Muslims and nationalists who have decided today to take a serious and decisive stand against this Phalangist terrorism, which works for Israel and will only desist when another force stops and confronts it? We have wanted that deterrent force to be supplied by the Lebanese authorities. However, it seems that there is no life in those who have been gathered. Thus, we are drowning between armed Phalangist Christians and defenseless, innocent Christian citizens who, like the rest of the citizenry, want to live in security and peace.

[Question] From what you have said, it seems that you are pessimistic about the possibility of reaching a solution, given the continuation of the current Phalangist presence. In your opinion, is it necessary to efface or curb the Phalange, in order to address the solution?

[Answer] We put no stock in either pessimism or capricious, extemporaneous optimism. Rather, we trust only in God, may He be glorified and exalted, and in preparing correctly for confronting any illegal power operating on Lebanese soil, be it Israeli power or Phalangist power working for Israel. Let me repeat again that if there were no Israeli or Phalangist rifles in this land, it would not have been necessary yesterday or today to think of carrying Islamic rifles inside Beirut and outside it. However, given the presence of the power of falsehood, the force of truth must arise. And so it shall, with God's permission, because we want Lebanon's freedom, and we want to achieve freedom for the Muslims and take back their rights. We want security for ourselves and for the other citizens, be they Muslim or not, on the land of united Lebanon.

We Support Unity

[Question] What about partition, to which America has alluded? How will the Muslims resist it?

The interview was interrupted because Shaykh Qasim had to perform his prayers. Afterwards, he responded to the question by saying this:

[Answer] According to their character, nature, and doctrine, the Muslims support the idea of unification above all else. On the doctrinal level, they can accept neither division nor the idea of God having a partner. On the national level, they can accept neither partition nor the participation of any foreigners in the land of their country, especially since those who have been nominated to participate and establish their hegemony if partition occurs are the Zionist enemies. They want final control over the regions of Lebanon, assuming they can carry out their plot to fragment,

divide, and partition Lebanon. Therefore, the Muslims, who have been and still are proclaiming the Arab character of Lebanon and the unity of its land and people, will resist the American-Kissingerite-Zionist plan with all political and military means, so that they will be able to frustrate this project. No matter how seriously it is proposed in colonialist and Fascist party circles loyal to Israel, the Muslim and nationalist forces will be capable, with God's permission, of frustrating it and those who are planning it. We all trust in God and hope that this country will remain whole and unified, especially since a model of courageous Lebanese national resistance against the Israeli enemy is undertaking continuous operations against the Zionist enemy in the south every day. This model of resistance can spread to every region, in order to resist the partition plan.

Those who proclaim the unity of God and believe shall be the victors, with God's permission, may He be exalted.

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CSO: 4404/323

RAILWAY DIRECTOR DETAILS RAILROAD PROJECTS

Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 28 Dec 83 p 2

[Article by Mansur al-'Adwan: "Faisal al-Shuhayl to AL-RIYAD: '21 Railway Projects Are Currently Being Implemented; 1,581,000 Riyals Is The Value of The Railway Development Projects; Rail Lines Between Al-Riyadh, Al-Dammam, and Al-Hufuf."]

[Text] Al-Dammam. The General Railway Organization is undertaking to implement 21 different projects including the construction of a pair of lines between al-Riyadh and al-Dammam which is in three stages, the construction of three stations in al-Riyadh, al-Dammam, and al-Hufuf, a train workshop in al-Dammam and also a passenger car workshop, the renovation of a section of railway and the construction of a branch line for the Ministry of Defense, and another line for the Saudi - Bahraini Cement Factory, a number of depots, residential buildings, structures, paving of the streets in the residential area, construction of an awning at the land customs office in Riyadh, and the expansion of homes in the residential section.

Professor Faisal al-Shuhayl, general director, for the General Railway Organization explained this, saying these numerous and significant projects are considered to be a great step forward in railway services. The total cost of these projects is as follows: firstly, direct lines between the three cities al-Riyadh, al-Dammam, and al-Hufuf, 1,006,640 riyals; other projects amounted to about 577 million riyals.

These projects are:

- Pair of lines 140 kilometers, costing \$114,521,198 period: 730 days.
- Direct line, al-Hufuf section, 160 km, costing \$103,887,442, period 790 days
- Direct line, al-Riyadh section, 147 km, costing \$131,903,085, period 825 days
- Construction of three stations one in al-Dammam, one in al-Riyadh, and one in al-Hufuf costing 205,031,201 riyals, period 24 months.
- Construction of a major train workshop in al-Dammam costing 70,889,090 riyals, period: 939 days.

- Construction of a passenger car workshop in al-Dammam costing 12,662,925 riyals, period 340 days.
- Construction of a train workshop in al-Riyadh costing 16,532,140 riyals, period 425 days.
- Renovation of 100 km of a line costing 138,563,540 riyals, period: 22 months.
- Construction of a new branch line for the Ministry of Defense extending 195 km and costing 31,383,830 riyals, period 420 days.
- Construction of a new line to serve the Saudi - Bahraini Cement Factory extending 29 km and costing 48,490,215 riyals, period: 469 days.
- Workshop area paving project and fabrication of an oil separating device costing 18,245,925 riyals, period: 14 days.
- Construction project, number five depots costing 2,740,500 riyals, period: 8 months.
- Administrative building, depots, and acquisitions 2.2 million riyals, period 8 months.
- Paving project for the streets of the residential area, parking lot, and the al-Dammam station costing 3,773,150 riyals, period: 6 months.
- Paving projects for the Buqayq, 'Ayn Marid and al-Kharj stations costing 829,500 riyals, period: 4 months.
- Fence construction project for al-Nasariyya residential area costing 542,920 riyals, period: three months.
- Building construction project for the civil engineering administration costing 4,402,457 riyals, period: 1 year.
- Villa construction project (22 villas) along the railway costing 7,804,345 riyals, period: 14 months.
- Construction project for two residential buildings costing 12,227,234 riyals, period: 450 days.
- Awning construction project at the land customs station in al-Riyadh costing 2.5 million riyals, period: 8 months.
- Home expansion project in the residential sector costing 1,045,900 riyals, period: 8 months.

12390

CSO: 4404/305

DISCUSSION OF EFFORTS TO INCREASE WATER RESOURCES

Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 29 Dec 83 p 2

[Article by Jabar al-Asmari: "Per The General Director of Development of Water Sources In The Ministry of Agriculture and Water; Intense Efforts On The Part of The Ministry to Develop Water Sources In All Areas of The Kingdom":]

There Are Numerous Dams Under Construction And Other Dams Under Study Or Being Drafted; Amount Of Desalinated Water Will Reach 850 Million Metric Cubic Tons During the Year; Our citizens Are in Need of Warning and Guidance In Regards To the Consumption Of Water.

[Text] The Ministry of Agriculture and Water is undertaking numerous tests used in the most modern of engineering methods in order to find and measure possible water sources as well as the most expedient ways to develop them for different social and economic goals of development. The General Director of Development of Water Sources in the Ministry of Agriculture and Water, Professor Mustafa Nuri 'Uthman said to AL-RIYAD that substantial efforts had been made toward that, and millions of riyals had been spent, thousands of meters had been dug to choose strata, and numerous tests were done on wells dug seeking the characteristics of water bearing strata. Also stations were set up to measure rainfall, streams, heat, evaporation, and humidity, etc.

Once an actual source has been developed in any area it is necessary for the concerned parties to maintain the source and all of its different equipment and functions so that it can produce for the longest period possible without creating obstacles or problems which block its flow in the future, due to the fact that our country is considered to have limited water resources, and because there are no rivers flowing through it. Therefore it was necessary to create an office in the Ministry of Water and Agriculture concerned with protecting water. In order to do that this office keeps track of methods and ways capable of maintaining and preserving water resources such as the organization of well drilling operations, or the control of digging by licensing from the ministry.

In Some Areas It Is Forbidden to Drill Wells

Royal orders were issued which banned well digging in some areas whether for potable water in these areas or for raising the water level or for any other

technical reasons. In addition, there is the system for preserving sources of water issued in civil decree number 34/m, dated 8/24/1400 H and its executive regulation which organized drilling operations, licensing thereof, and included penalties to be applied in case the articles or the instructions of the system or its regulations are violated. One of the conditions of licensing is that certain distances be left between wells dug, and that they be dug to certain depths and that the outlet be constructed with pipe and cement from the surface to the water bearing strata to keep it from becoming polluted.

Registration, Classification of Well Digging Contractors

The ministry has begun to register and classify well digging contractors and has organized registries for them. It has issued for the practice of well digging including the maximum depth to which they are permitted to dig based on the type of equipment, machinery, expertise, and skill they have in the field of tubular well drilling.

For the sake of protecting water and maintaining its sources, the ministry is undertaking to continually supervise well drilling in the critical areas and is spot checking in other areas in the Kingdom. This is to verify the compliance with the conditions of drilling in the areas and locations for which they are licensed. The ministry continuously urges and welcomes agricultural projects which are set up on a water conservation basis, that is modern irrigation methods such as trickle irrigation, misting or spraying. This is because these methods save 50 percent of what might be otherwise consumed, for example, one hectar planted with wheat would require about 28,000 cubic meters for a harvest with the use of irrigational flooding, however modern methods would consume about 15,000 cubic meters for a harvest and so on.

The ministry is striving to adopt every method which leads to the lessening of water consumption and an increase in production while at the same time preserving water and using it economically.

Experts Study Problem Of Water Use

A group of experts from the ministry undertook the study of water misuse in the home and in cooperative housing and they succeeded in preparing a gradated pricing schedule for water consumption based on rationing such that the consumer would pay a token amount for the first ration and the amount would increase quickly if the consumer began using the following rations and so on.

Plan For Construction of Dams

Answering a question posed by AL-RIYAD concerning the ministry's future plan in the area of dam construction, and whether dams already constructed had accomplished their objectives, he said:

"In reality the construction of dams is only one method which leads to the development of water sources and the development of water bearing strata. Since rain and surface water are not predictable events in the Kingdom, and

one year differs from the next either by more or by less rain, some regions of the Kingdom are inundated with water causing floods, which ruin crops, property, roads, and paths. Therefore, dams were constructed to control torrential run-off, and to subdue fast running streams and in turn to take advantage of this water for irrigation and to replenish water bearing strata, to increase our water storage, and to raise water levels. Before a dam is constructed field studies are reviewed to understand the geology of the region as well as the placement and type of stone in the stream bed and on its sides and the determination of the surface and cubic area of the dammed lake in case the dam is constructed. Tests are also run such as the drilling of test boreholes, and the review and analysis of weather information in the region. If the results and the analyses are positive, then drawings and plans are prepared which include the dam's height and width.

Just as the study, design, and construction of dams takes a long time, also it is not a simple matter to change the environment and the conditions of a valley except by careful intensive studies which seek to bring about the change by way of introducing a dam to that valley and by taking advantage of the water, which had been running free, for agricultural development operations, and to increase its area and its productive capacity.

As for the ministry's plan for the construction of dams, in reality a number of dams have been constructed in all parts of the Kingdom which have played an effective role in the development of agriculture and in the enlarging of arable land area. There are a number of other dams in different stages of construction and others in different stages of design and planning.

Largest Dams Constructed

The largest dam constructed to date is al-Mudayq dam at Wadi Najran. Storage capacity is about 85 million cubic meters of water, and is followed in size by Qadi Jizan which has a storage capacity of about 50 million cubic meters of water. This exceeds a number of finished dams, dams under construction, and dams which are planned in the third five year plan. This indicates the great concern that our discerning government directs towards dam construction, and the continuation of their implementation as long as that is for the benefit and use of agricultural advancement and works to control surface run-off in maximizing its benefit in an elemental practical fashion.

Treated Sewer Water

Concerning AL-RIYAD's question about the ministry's intention in future planning for taking advantage of sewer water after its purification for specific uses, he said:

In truth the ministry is striving to the utmost to take advantage of every drop of useful water. So long as there is water which can be recycled to an acceptable level of purity, then it is considered to be a water resource which should be taken advantage of and should not be left to harm its surrounding environment. The first trial was a pioneer in this field, and it was the use

of purified sewer water in al-Riyadh which was accomplished by pumping the water through pipes to the Dirab and al-Dir'iyah, farms in the area of al-Riyadh which had been complaining of the lack of water in its wells and were on the verge of destruction. When this water arrived there, the farms were revived. The amount of purified run-off water produced in al-Riyadh about 200,000 cubic meters and is expected to reach 400,000 cubic meters of water daily by 1405 (Hijri). Also the ministry began a study about taking advantage of purified run-off water in the area of al-Qasim (Baridah and 'Unayzah) and also an analagous study in the area of Medina to find out the possibility of exploiting it without causing adverse effects on the soil and the health of the farmers and the consumers of agricultural products. There are other studies which will begin soon in other areas of the Kingdom, and the amount of treated sewage water in the Kingdom will reach about 850 million cubic meters per year; the major portion of this water will be exploited in areas of industry, agriculture, public gardens, vegetable gardens, forests, and stabilizing of sand dunes. Advanced purification of this water and its management in a practical, sound manner will play a major role in the areas of the water's use, and the demand for it will increase continually in all sectors. Effective planned exploitation of this water will not only improve its quality in all parts of the Kingdom, but it will also prolong the life of water bearing strata because to some degree purified sewer water will be used in its place.

We Want The Citizens To Consume Prudently

Concerning rationalizing consumption, he said, the information and warnings that were published in the local newspapers were considered to be in a test period. During the test we will not look for the extent of its influence on the citizen and the resident. We did perceive its influence, and we prepared instructional posters and signs for the consumer concerning the ways of using water sparingly without waste on a whim, God forbid.

As Muslims and believers it is incumbent upon us to preserve this blessing however possible, also we prepared instructional pamphlets for children, students, women, and farmers. They have already been distributed to schools, farms, government agencies and to the private sector. We finished by preparing instructional sessions so as to broadcast from the mass media with the cooperation of the Ministry of Information. Audio and visual materials are being prepared and will soon be broadcast and shown. Since local newspapers and magazines are part of the mass media, we have been asked to clarify the efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water in the area of water preservation in order to inform water consumers as to how to use water sparingly. Our discerning respected government has expended great efforts and money to discover and develop water sources, and it is the citizens' responsibility to maintain these resources and to preserve them through exemplar usage without waste.

12390

CSO: 4404/305

REPORTAGE ON INDO-PAKISTAN SUBCOMMISSIONS' MEETINGS

19 Jan Meeting

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 20 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] NEW DELHI, January 19--A THREE-DAY meeting of the Indo-Pakistan sub-commissions began here today with India calling for a change of the situation in which the world hears only of differences and disagreement between the two countries.

The foreign secretary, Mr. M. Rasgotra, who inaugurated the meeting, said India's relations with its neighbours were generally excellent and wondered why the situation should be any different in the case of India and Pakistan. "In an appropriate forum, both countries should give careful thought to the question", he suggested.

He reiterated India's desire to promote normal and friendly relations and said this country was anxious to give meaning and substance to bilateral relations. His sentiments were reciprocated by Mr. Riaz Piracha, Pakistan's ambassador here. Mr. Piracha said Pakistan was approaching the talks in a positive and constructive manner.

The two subcommissions meeting here deal with information and culture, education and social sciences and travel and tourism. These meetings follow the Indo-Pakistani talks on trade and economic co-operation just concluded in Islamabad.

Better Understanding

Mr. Rasgotra's speech in Hindi was a reflection of the country's composite culture, containing as it did a fair mixture of Sanskritised Hindi and chaste Urdu. He said the two subcommissions were dealing with important areas of extensive potential contacts between the information media, the academic, intellectual and ordinary citizens of the two countries.

The progress achieved in these meetings, the foreign secretary said, would help generate understanding between the two peoples and larger interaction between them was bound to be beneficial to both.

Mr. Rasgotra recalled the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, had suggested the setting up of the Indo-Pakistan joint commission as a forum for forging constructive and mutually beneficial co-operation between the two countries, which would help transcend the differences and misunderstandings of the past.

He said the commission's first meeting took place in Islamabad in June 1983, which was a good beginning, and India was happy that some useful though modest progress was made. "The goals that we set out to achieve last year were the same as those enshrined in the Simla agreement of more than a decade ago", he said.

India had neighbours and had differences over some matters with some of them, which was only natural. But the general tenor of its relations with each one of them was excellent and its co-operation with them was diverse and extensive.

India wished to work for greater contacts among the peoples of both countries and to seek co-operation in the largest number of areas of common interest for mutual benefit, Mr. Rasgotra said. He hoped the agreements reached at these talks would be acted upon by the respective agencies of the two governments, so that progress could be made towards achieving the aims of the joint commission.

Meanwhile, the two missing servants of the counsellor in the Indian embassy in Islamabad have returned to their respective homes.

However, mystery surrounds their travel from Islamabad to this country since they did not have their passports with them.

It was earlier suspected that they might have been picked up by Pakistani intelligence personnel who had approached them once. Two domestic servants just disappeared on January 2. Virendra Thakur and Kishan Kumar were last seen outside the house of the Indian counsellor, Mr. A. Pershad.

A spokesman of the external affairs ministry, who gave the information on the return of the servants, said: "We are relieved that they have returned safely."

Replying to a question, he said that the ministry came to know on January 17 that the servants had returned.

He said the servants could not have come all the way from Islamabad to the Indian border without some assistance.

The servants seemed to have used some unauthorised route to enter India as they were not carrying their travel documents, the spokesman said.

Second Day's Session

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 21 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] NEW DELHI, Jan. 20--The Indo-Pakistani sub-commissions on information, education, social sciences, culture and sports and travel, tourism and consular matters are believed to have concluded here today their formal discussions on various proposals put forward by the two countries.

According to the Foreign Office spokesman, the two sub-commissions had continued to make "progress" on the second day of the talks, which began here yesterday. The spokesman declined to go into the details of the various proposals adding that the minutes agreed upon would be released after the concluding session tomorrow morning. The Pakistani delegation is scheduled to leave for Islamabad tomorrow evening.

The spokesman said that the process which had begun yesterday had proceeded satisfactorily today.

Pakistani sources, while sharing the spokesman's assessment of the talks during the meetings of the two sub-commissions, have been taken aback by the release yesterday itself--when the Foreign Secretary had spoken of India's positive and constructive approach to the building up of good neighbourly relations with Pakistan--of a document by the AICC which denounces the present regime in Pakistan. One of the sources said it was in odd taste that almost at the same time as Mr Rasgotra was talking in terms of reconciliation and friendship the AICC, of which the Prime Minister was the president, should have launched a vitriolic attack on Pakistan. "We just do not know what to make of it", the source said, apparently bewildered.

At the Foreign Office briefing this issue was raised by a foreign correspondent but the spokesman expectedly told him that what the AICC said did not concern him. He had not even seen the document, he said adding that the Government would continue to pursue its policy of friendship with all neighbours, including Pakistan.

Agreements Noted

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 22 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] NEW DELHI, January 21--INDIA and Pakistan today agreed to issue double entry visas to visitors from either country and will soon sign a protocol on promotion of group tourism.

This was one of the concrete results of the exchanges between the two countries on expanding relations in the fields of information, education, travel, tourism, culture and sports.

According to a joint press statement, issued at the end of two subcommission meetings, it was agreed to consider measures to increase the number of shrines for visit by pilgrims of both the countries.

All the four sub commissions of the Indo-Pakistan joint commission will meet again in New Delhi during the second meeting of the joint commission. This year the two foreign ministers are co-chairmen of the committee. The commission had met earlier in June last year.

The sub-commission dealing with culture could not complete its discussion on the draft agreement on cultural co-operation but it was indicated that a firm response to this draft presented by India would be available at the next meeting.

However, it was decided that pending the finalisation of the cultural agreement, exchanges of artistes could take place. According to the press note, discussions would facilitate visits of artistes, poets, writers and experts in various fields.

Archeological Congress

A spokesman of the external affairs ministry said the two countries would hold an archeological congress every two years. Archival material will be exchanged and also two experts in the field.

The meeting considered further measures for co-operation among national libraries, archives and museums and preservation of cultural property.

It was decided to increase co-operation in the field of information. The information and broadcasting minister, Mr. H. K. L. Bhagat, will visit Pakistan from February 15 to 18 in response to an invitation from his Pakistan counterpart.

It was stated that further impetus would be given to exchanges in the fields of sports and specific plans for these exchanges during this year have been drawn up.

One of the sub-commissions farther discussed steps to streamline procedures for the return of civilian detenus who have completed their sentences.

The discussions were held in a "cordial and constructive" atmosphere, it was stated. The meeting of the two sub-commissions was inaugurated by the foreign secretary, Mr. M. Rasgotra.

The minutes of the sub-commission on information were signed by Mr. J. K. Bhattacharya, joint secretary in the ministry of information and broadcasting, and Mr. M. A. Beg, joint secretary in the ministry of culture and sports, Pakistan. The minutes of the sub-commission on travel were signed by Mr. S. K. Lambha, joint secretary in the external affairs ministry, and Mr. Mohsin Kamal, joint secretary in the Pakistan foreign office.

Meanwhile, an Indian official team led by the commerce secretary, Mr. Abid Hussain, has returned from a visit to Pakistan with the feeling that a breakthrough in trade relations is possible.

Trade Imbalances

Besides attending the three-day session of the joint sub-commission on trade, members of the team had frank talks with a cross-section of the people including ministers and bureaucrats, industrialists and businessmen, senior army officers and journalists.

The meeting with the chamber of commerce in Lahore was described by Mr. Abid Hussain as highly successful. Practically everyone expressed a desire to expand trade relations with India.

Fears are still being entertained in Pakistan about trade imbalances, about exploitation and about opening up their industry to competition from India.

"It is not expected that trade between the two countries will take a big lead tomorrow", Mr. Abid Hussain says. But it is significant that the past trend has been reversed. "In the past they would not even talk about it: today they are prepared to listen."

For instance, several new items have been included in the list of exports and imports identified by the sub-commission. The agreement to allow Indian investors to set up units in Pakistan's processing zone and vice versa is significant.

The two sides agreed to buy from each other commodities they are now important from third countries. It was agreed that in case of sudden shortages, commodities could be supplied on a short term basis by each other. Mr. Abid Hussain believes that a new class of traders is emerging in Pakistan that is not so sensitive to the past history of Indo-Pakistan relations as the outgoing generation.

In the ultimate run, he agrees, trade flows would depend on the perception the leaders of India and Pakistan have of each other's politics.

Congress-I Publication

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] THE CONGRESS-I HAS WARNED THAT THE PEOPLE OF INDIA CANNOT SIT AND WATCH "FREEDOM BEING THREATENED AND LIBERTY BEING MASSACRED BY A JUNTA IN PAKISTAN".

The Indian people were exercised not only over the throttling of democracy in Pakistan but also by the fact that Pakistan, under its military rulers, was becoming the biggest threat to India's security in the subcontinent, particularly now that 'America has enabled it to take a quantum jump in updating and modernising its war potential', the Congress-I has said.

The warning has been sounded in an AICC-I publication titled 'Pakistan: War Postures' released by the party headquarters on Thursday.

'The upsurge in Sind, the uprising in Baluchistan, the unrest in Northwest Frontier Province, which manifested recently, are clear indications that the people of Pakistan, who in final reckoning are the masters of the country, are yearning for a return to democracy', the publication noted.

'In a situation like this, has India, which occupies a pivotal position in the India-Pakistan subcontinent, no role to play?' the pamphlet asked, adding: 'If India cannot sit back and watch when the Blacks in South Africa are being massacred by a White minority or when Israel is bombarding the Arabs in Lebanon, how can our leaders who are steeped in democracy sit back and watch with equanimity the hawkish military rulers when they bombard Baluchis, shoot Sindhis and horsewhip those who dare challenge the regime'.

The military Junta in Pakistan the pamphlet said, seemed determined to stick to power 'by all means fair or foul'.

The pamphlet severely assailed the Opposition leaders like Mr Charan Singh and Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee without of course, naming them for criticising Mrs Indira Gandhi's expression of concern over developments in Pakistan they forget that sovereignty rests with the people of that country and the recent events have shown that the people of Pakistan are fed up with the arbitrary rule of the generals in uniform' the pamphlet said.

'When American and her allies praise Lech Walesa or the Third World leaders demand the release of Nelson Mandela, the Opposition leaders and the Indian Press extol their efforts. But when Mrs Gandhi expressed concern at the Pakistani rulers thwarting the democratic movement in that country and suggested that the 90-year-old Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan might be released in view of his old age and failing health, the Opposition leaders, the self appointed holier than thou adumbrators of freedom liberty and equality raise a chorus of 'interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan', the pamphlet noted with sarcasm and anger.

The publication referred to Mrs Gandhi's gesture in returning the territory and 100,000 POWs captured by the Indian Army in the last war with Pakistan and recalled how 'history has witnessed the policy of appeasement adopted by the Indian leadership vis-a-vis the Intransigence of the Muslim League'.

The pamphlet emphasised that India wanted peace and friendship with all and had even offered a treaty of friendship with Pakistan which had the merit of providing a continuous dialogue and a mechanism for building up a relationship on trust and faith, brick by brick.

'Yet it does not mean that the people of India can sit back and watch freedom being threatened liberty being massacred by a Junta which wants to keep itself in power by all means, fair or foul' the pamphlet said, adding: 'the people of this country will be excited when freedom is threatened and democracy is strangulated. Their leaders will have to voice the sentiments of the people if they have their hand on the nation's pulse'.

Outcome 'Limited But Welcome'

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Jan 84 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

Seven months after the Indo-Pakistan commission first met in Islamabad, the four subcommissions set up under it have met and made limited but useful progress. Particularly welcome, for instance, is the agreement on "double entry" transit visas that would take away some of the current irritants from the travel between the two countries. No less commendable is the protocol on "group tourism" — agreed to, but yet to be signed — that would extend to the general run of tourists the facility of the two-way travel hitherto restricted to pilgrims to selected shrines on fixed occasions and members of divided families. If to this is added the possibilities of exchanges in the fields of sports and culture that have been opened up as a result of the recent parleys in New Delhi, it will be seen that the scope for people-to-people contacts has been widened.

The story about trade — the subcommission on this subject met in Islamabad earlier — is somewhat different though in this field too, some optimistic trends are in evidence. The question of signing a fresh trade agreement between the two countries has been hanging fire for five long years. At issue is the Pakistani fear that Indian products might swamp the Pakistani markets and the consequent Pakistani demand that India cannot be treated on a par with Pakistan's other trading partners. This country is willing to find solutions to Pakistani misgivings but on a basis that does not discriminate between India and others trading with Pakistan. Unfortunately, no meeting ground has been found so far and even the Islamabad talks have failed to pave the way for a new agreement. However, the Indian side has returned home with the hope that a breakthrough might be reached before long, given the necessary political will on both sides, and some small measures for augmenting trade, especially in essential commodities at times of scarcity caused by natural calamities that have been agreed on.

Merely to state all this is to stress that the process of promoting better relations between the two neighbours cannot but be slow. It would therefore be unrealistic to make the modest results achieved by the subcommissions the basis for exaggerated expectations. The history of India-Pakistan relations in recent years is replete with sharp ups and downs. Some of the worst setbacks on the road to rapprochement have come unhappily during the most optimistic interludes. Within four days of Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao's successful visit to Pakistan in 1981, for instance, all the gains made by him were washed away by the announcement of the massive package of U.S. military supplies and economic aid to

Pakistan. Such examples can be multiplied. The more pertinent point is that the atmosphere in the subcontinent has of late been not exactly conducive to a quick or a major breakthrough. Nor could it possibly have been, in view of the movement in Pakistan, especially in Sind, for the restoration of democracy. No wonder the meeting between the two foreign secretaries which ought to have taken place in September-October has been delayed until later this month. And though the coming talks between Mr. M. K. Rasgotra and Mr. Niaz Naik must not be prejudged, the substantial difference between what Pakistan seeks through its offer of a non-aggression pact and India wishes to achieve through a treaty of peace and friendship cannot be wished away, or brushed under the carpet.

Were this all, things would be difficult enough. What makes them more daunting is a series of other developments, some of them an inevitable outcome of the complexities of India-Pakistan relations. The Pakistanis, for instance, have objected to a booklet critical of Pakistan issued by the AICC precisely at a time when Mr. Rasgotra was urging the joint subcommissions to adopt a "positive" and "constructive" approach. But then the ruling party's representatives were reacting to reports that Islamabad was giving the U.S. "military facilities", a euphemism for bases, on Pakistani soil. On the other hand, the recent writings by Lt.-Gen. (retired) Akram, known for his proximity to the ruling military junta, denouncing Mrs. Gandhi for her alleged Bonapartism cannot but cause offence in New Delhi. A telling instance of

avoidable irritants, however, is the inept way in which New Delhi, especially the Indian envoy in Islamabad, has handled the non-mystery of the disappearance of two domestic servants of an Indian diplomat. At first without ascertaining the facts a protest was lodged with Pakistan and the Pakistani intelligence agencies were accused of keeping the two men in custody. Later this turned out to be untrue, though quite clearly the two missing servants were helped by someone in Pakistan illegally to travel to India without their passports. This time it was Pakistan's turn to protest. But instead of offering a word of regret, the Indian side has behaved churlishly.

CSO: 4600/1518

PRESS REPORTS DEVELOPMENTS IN PUNJAB SITUATION

Threat from Longowal

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 21 Jan 84 pp 1, 7

[Text] AMRITSAR, Jan 20 (UNI)--Akali Dal president Harchand Singh Longowal today warned that the Centre was creating conditions for the Dal to announce a 'parallel Government' in Punjab as suggested by Mr Jagdev Singh Talwandi.

Addressing a congregation at Manii Sahib on the eve of a prayer meeting for the early recovery of Mr Talwandi, the Akali leader said the Akali Dal-T president had done nothing but given a suggestion for the creation of a 'parallel Government' in the State for which he was detained under the National Security Act.

He said the current morcha would be intensified to 'show Prime Minister Indira Gandhi that the agitation has not ended'. The morcha would continue until the demands were conceded he added.

Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale also attended the function. Both attended the 'bhog' ceremony of 'Akhand Path' (continuous recitation of the holy scripture) organised for the speedy recovery of Mr Talwandi.

Sant Bhindranwale, however left the stage soon after the bhog ceremony whereas Sant Longowal addressed the gathering.

Sant Longowal alleged that Mrs Gandhi had refused to recognise the 17-month-old peaceful agitation as a struggle in spite of the fact that about two lakh people had courted arrest and about 200 people have sacrificed their lives'.

He said the current morcha was a 'decisive battle' of the Sikhs.

The Sikhs were threatened with extinction, he alleged.

Sant Longowal said the Sikhs had been fighting against the Centre since 1949 when their representatives had refused to put their signatures to the draft of the Indian Constitution. It would have been better if the Sikhs had drawn the battleline against the Centre then and saved a grim battle now.

Sant Longowal said the Akali Dal was not demanding anything from the Centre but had been fighting against excesses committed against the Sikhs and for the fulfilment of the promises made to them before the partition of the country.

He asked the Akali leaders to be ready for a grim struggle against the Centre after the announcement of morcha intensification programme on 26 January. He said it would be a 'do or die battle'.

He asked the Akali activists to be ready to carry out the new action plan.

Earlier senior party leader and member of the high command Sukhjinder Singh said that the current morcha was a protracted battle of the Sikhs.

He said the Centre feared that the Akali Dal was fighting for 'Khalistan' so it would not concede their demands and would 'prefer to push the Sikhs aside'.

Our Chandigarh Correspondent adds: Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee president and senior Akali leader Gurcharan Singh Tohra made it clear that the party did not propose 'to disturb' Republic Day celebrations on 26 January.

He told newsmen that the next phase of the Dal's intensified morcha would, however, start from 27 January 'since we don't want to disturb Republic Day programmes'.

Mr Tohra denied press reports that there was a fresh attempt at mediation between the Centre and the agitating Akali Dal. 'There is no such move'.

Asked about the possibility of restoration of popular rule in Punjab, he said it hardly made a difference to the Akalis. However, he said it was for every one to see how the past Congress-I Government sowed the 'seeds of dissensions' among the people in the State.

Mr Tohra questioned the secular character of Governments in the neighbouring Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. He alleged these Government had even denied Punjabi Hindus jobs on the ground that they had acquired degrees and diplomas from educational institutions in Punjab.

Mr Tohra met State Governor B D Pande this morning and brought to his notice the alleged harassment of innocent people in Amritsar by the Border Security Force personnel.

He said the Governor promised to get the matter reviewed since he too felt that innocent people should not be harassed.

Mr Tohra also urged the Governor to shift detained Akali leader Talwandi to the PGI here since he was suffering from heart trouble. The Governor agreed to issue orders to this effect.

In Ludhiana, Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Buta Singh ruled out tripartite negotiations for a solution to the Punjab tangle.

Speaking to newsmen at Sihar village 40 km from Lndhiana Mr Buta Singh charged the Opposition parties with playing a double game during the earlier negotiations.

He said what was happening in the State was not of a political nature. The Punjab Government was, however, trying to differentiate general crime from political offences.

Mr Buta Singh said a pleasant atmosphere was required to normalise the political situation in the State.

Representative's Press Conference

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 23 Jan 84 p 7

[Text]

CHANDIGARH, Jan. 21.—Mr Gurnam Singh Tir, speaking on behalf of the Akali Dal (Longowal) at a Press conference here today, claimed that the party was united and there was no dissension or faction. He said that Sant Harchand Singh Longowal was the undisputed leader of the party.

He said Khalistan was not the issue, since nobody among them had ever asked for it. All that they wanted was State autonomy as demanded in the Anandpur Sahib resolution. His party was totally opposed to any communal strains or problems. Its fight was against the Centre.

Mr Tir claimed that the Akali morcha had achieved more than 50% success in its objectives since nine Indian States had endorsed the Akali Dal Anandpur Sahib resolution for provincial autonomy in one form or the other.

He said the Akali Dal (T) had placed only one condition before Sant Longowal before making a common cause for a joint morcha that the Akali Dal (L) should adopt and declare the Anandpur Sahib resolution as the main aim of the morcha. Not only Sant Longowal, but his colleagues, too, had agreed to fight for the realization

of the Anandpur Sahib resolution, he said. Consequently, both the Dals and some other groups had united under the leadership of Sant Longowal.

He said that the Sikhs were now passing through a very crucial stage. Their very existence was at stake. He made an appeal to the Sikhs all over the world to get united under the flag of the Shiromani Akali Dal and the leadership of Sant Longowal. He said Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale was above party politics and deserved universal respect.

Mr A. S. Malhotra, secretary, Punjab State Council of the CPI, in a statement, said that both the Congress(I) and the Akali Dal seemed to be bent on a course of confrontation, instead of doing the desirable. They did not realize that this would only help the extremists and separatists.

CSO: 4600/1517

INDIA

REPORTS, COMMENTS ON PROBLEMS WITH KASHMIR

Farooq Allegation

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 21 Jan 84 p 4

[Text] SRINAGAR, Jan. 20 (UNI)--Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister, Farooq Abdullah said today 'various conspiracies' were being hatched by his detractors to 'kill' him and remove him from the scene, with the sole motive of gaining power.

Addressing a religious gathering at Khanyar here, Dr. Abdullah told his people that in case it happened, the people should keep peace, because by 'killing' or assaulting him, his detractors would not succeed in their evil designs.

Dr Abdullah, who was last week the target of demonstrations by Congress-I activists in Calcutta and Delhi, said if he was 'killed' hundreds of Farooqs would mushroom all over the State.

Launching a scathing attack on Congress-I in the State, Dr Abdullah said just like in Karnataka repeated attempts were being made to topple his duly elected Government by purchasing ruling National Conference legislators.

However, he said, that would not be allowed to happen.

Obviously referring to Congress-I, Dr Abdullah said they were not only trying to 'kill' him but the people of Kashmir as well.

He alleged his party legislators were being offered huge amounts of money--Rs 15 to 20 lakhs--to change sides with the aim of toppling his Government.

'But so far the people of Kashmir have been united.' he told them, 'no one would dare to topple my Government.'

He also blamed the Congress-I for creating lawlessness by resorting to 'loot and arson.'

Dr Abdullah had said yesterday's complete bandh had shown that the people of Kashmir were fully behind him and his Government.

Dr Abdullah blamed the Congress-I for making attempts 'to divide Muslims in Jammu and Kashmir by creating Shia-Suni problems and making them to fight each other.'

He said attempts were being made to create an impression in the rest of the country that the people of Kashmir were pro-Pakistanis.

He said he had told the people in the rest of the country that it was not the people of Kashmir who were enemies of India, but the Congress-I in the State.

Asking the people to remain peaceful in spite of provocations by Congress-I, Dr Abdullah said he would seek their help to curb Congress-I lawlessness only if his Government failed to control the situation.

He would teach the Congress-I a lesson, he added.

He thanked the Centre for enhancing this year's Plan allocation by Rs 50 crores.

He announced that a team of National Conference MLAs would tour various parts of the country from 8 February to counter the false propaganda about the people of Kashmir.

Earlier, a resolution was unanimously adopted condemning the recent assault on Dr Abdullah at Calcutta and Delhi.

Rajiv Remarks

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 21 Jan 84 p 4

[Text] CUTTACK, Jan 20 (UNI, PTI)--Congress-I general secretary Rajiv Gandhi on Thursday declared that his party had no desire to dislodge the National Conference Government in Jammu and Kashmir but wanted it to fight 'secessionists' in that State.

Addressing a public meeting here, Mr Gandhi said his party would not tolerate failure on the part of anyone to protect the country's unity.

Mr Gandhi charged the Farooq Abdullah Government with unleashing 'a reign of terror' on the people who were opposed to its policies.

He pointed out that the police had indulged in reckless firing on demonstrators in that State recently.

He said the Opposition parties in the country had failed to condemn the Srinagar Government for its effort to suppress the Congress-I Opposition in that State.

He called upon the people to support Mrs Gandhi's Government as the country was facing danger to its national integrity and sovereignty.

Aimless Opposition

Mr Gandhi said the Opposition parties had no philosophy or goal. "Their main aim is to remove the Congress-I from power" he added.

Alleging that the National Conference was working against national unity Mr Gandhi criticised Opposition parties for their 'failure' to condemn violent incidents in a sensitive border State like Punjab, where "members of a community were being killed in public".

He also alleged that Opposition parties thrived on regionalism and on issues like caste, creed and language, the things which could never strengthen a nation.

During his speeches, Mr Gandhi expressed concern over the flow of sophisticated foreign arms to Pakistan and internal unrest in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

He said India's remarkable progress had been possible due to the strong leadership given by Gandhiji, Pandit Nehru and Mrs Indira Gandhi. While a number of countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America was not independent in the real sense of the term and did not have any independent voice, India had made its voice felt in the international community, he added.

Mr Gandhi stressed the need for ensuring dignity of labour so that the youth, who were frustrated today, did not run after government jobs. They should avail of other modes of assistance extended to them by the government and learn to stand on their own feet, he said.

Orissa Chief Minister J B Patnaik, in his address, said the sixth plan outlay of the State was expected to be raised to Rs 1600 crore. Besides, an additional investment to the tune of Rs 3500 crore was required to bring the State at par with other developed States. This could be possible with fuller utilisation of vast natural resources of the State and strong support from the Centre, he added.

G. K. Reddy Comment

Madras THE HINDU in English 23 Jan 84 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Jan. 22.

The Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. B. K. Nehru, who has been called to Delhi for consultations, is returning tomorrow after detailed discussions with the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, on the present political situation in this sensitive border State.

The Centre is ready with its contingency plans for intervention if the current Congress (I) agitation in the Kashmir Valley, which has led to an open confrontation with the ruling National Conference, creates a serious law and order situation.

Tension abates

Meanwhile, there has been a slight abatement of the tension between the Centre and the State Government following the mediatory efforts of some well-meaning persons who are keen on averting a showdown that could do considerable harm to India's national interest.

The Chief Minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, has been advised by them to adopt a more conciliatory posture and assure all concerned, more particularly Mrs. Gandhi and her son, that he is not itching for a fight with the Centre.

The Union Government is well aware of the risks of premature intervention in this Muslim-majority border State, like the dismissal of the present Government, since any attempt to suppress a counter agitation by Dr. Abdullah's National Conference might take a communal turn with countrywide repercussions. So the current strategy is to let the Chief Minister over-reach himself by persisting in his defiant attitude before taking any action against him.

But the Chief Minister, who is adroitly casting himself in the role of a victim of Central arrogance and intolerance, is now adopting a conciliatory posture partly to confuse Mrs. Gandhi and partly to win the sympathy of those within her Government who feel that he should be handled with greater tact and consideration.

It is in pursuit of this strategy that he made a highly melodramatic speech at the meeting of the National Integration Council yesterday complaining that he had been able to meet Mrs. Gandhi only once in the last seven-and-a-half months since the last elections in the State.

It was the continued denial of such an opportunity to clear the misunderstanding that had led to the present sad situation in his State. He was within an hour's flying time from Delhi and Mrs. Gandhi could summon him any time if she felt that any of his policies or actions were not in the larger national interest.

He said: "I cannot pretend that I am guiltless. May be I have made some mistakes. But how can she ascertain the reasons for my actions unless she is prepared to meet me?" He complained that she was being misled by some mischievous elements who were bent on poisoning her mind against him.

The Prime Minister retorted: "How is it possible to meet you, if you come here in some other connection?" The reference was to his hobnobbing with other Opposition parties and talking darkly of campaigning actively against the Congress (I) in the next elections, something that his late father never did although he had reason to be much more bitter against the Centre.

The Chief Minister has also been taking legal advice on what the Centre could do to dismiss his Government and what the constraints would be if it chooses one or the other of the two courses of action open to it. But whatever step

the Centre takes would be basically a political one, based on the exercise of constitutional discretion by the President or the Governor, which would not be normally open to challenge in courts.

The legal experts of the Central Government hold the view that in accordance with the Constitution (application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1954, issued by the President, with the concurrence of the State Government, Article 356 which empowers the Centre to take over the administration of a State applies to Jammu and Kashmir as well, despite the fact that the State has been permitted to have its own constitution with a corresponding provision under Section 92 empowering the Governor to impose his rule in a similar situation.

Though only Governor's rule has been imposed in Jammu and Kashmir in the past under the State Constitution, the Centre is not specifically precluded from applying Article 356 to bring the State under President's rule.

The Presidential order of 1954 had stipulated that, first, a proclamation of emergency in Jammu and Kashmir on grounds of internal disturbance can be made only at the request or with the concurrence of the State Government; and secondly in imposing President's rule in Jammu and Kashmir the references to Article 356 of the Indian Constitution in relation to it should be construed to include the relevant provisions of the State Constitution.

It means that under Article 356 the Centre has the right to impose President's rule in Jammu and Kashmir, which is different from the right of the Governor to place the State under his rule in exercise of the emergency powers conferred on him by Section 92 of the State Constitution. The only qualification provided for in the Presidential order is that the imposition of President's rule should be in consonance with the State Constitution.

The point that is being disputed by Dr. Abdullah's advisers relates not only to the manner of imposition of President's rule, which is constitutionally different from Governor's rule, but also the duration of it since Section 92 of the Kashmir Constitution limits it to six months after which there will have to be fresh elections if no new Government is formed before the expiry of it.

PAKISTANI PAPER REVIEWS IRAN'S ECONOMIC SITUATION

GF021233 Karachi DAWN in English 25 Feb 84 p 4

[From the Economic and Business Review Supplement]

[Excerpt Iran--Rapidly rising trend in economic growth since 1964 persisted until the mid-1970s. After 1978-79, there was a marked downturn and by 1979-80 real national income had fallen by 18.6 percent. Some recovery was recorded in 1980-81.

According to official reports, real income grew by 9.8 percent in 1982-83, after rising by 2.3 percent in 1981-82. The recovery is attributed to increased exports of crude oil and better performance of the oil sector. Excluding the oil sector, the situation is quite different. Since the revolution and especially in the last 2 years, the services have shown positive growth while the growth in agricultural sector, sagging behind population growth, has been dominated partially by bad weather in the main regions and partially by the decline in the rural community.

Industrial sector has performed slightly better with growth in the sector estimated at around 3 percent to 5 percent in 1983. The generally sluggish rate of production within the domestic economy, the imbalances between supply and demand and continued war with Iraq have combined together resulting in higher rate of inflation which is estimated to have reached over 20 percent.

Unemployment problem is serious and the number of jobless is rising. Iran's financial reserve position is improving but not yet secure. Oil production has run above OPEC quota and refinery production has risen. The 5-year development plan for 1983-88 has been officially adopted in principle. It calls for investment of some of \$167 billion. Priorities have been outlined for agriculture. The plan envisages annual growth rate of 9 percent in GDP [gross domestic product] raising its value from \$108.9 billion in 1982 to about \$167 billion in 1988. Economic prospects for 1984 are only fair. The financial position could become less volatile. Trade will stay buoyant. Oil revenues will continue to rise steadily.

CSO: 4600/412

IRANIAN DIPLOMAT DENIES PRESENCE OF 'HIT SQUAD' IN MANILA

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 14 Feb 84 p 6

[Article by Jesus Bigornia]

[Text] Mr. Mostafa Toudekesht, information officer, denies a suggestion printed in this space that the Iranian embassy in Makati, has become the hang-out of a "hit squad" from Teheran. He says in a letter to the editor-in-chief of this newspaper: "Considering reality, the squad pointed out is basically a product of the imagination of some mininformed individuals. Hereby the mentioned text is denied." The Iranian embassy officer is silent, however, on a further claim that the diplomatic establishment has been financing the printing and distribution of propaganda material critical of the Philippine government and especially of President Marcos among Moslem Filipinos.

It becomes necessary for this column to remind him of a criminal case pending in the Regional Trial Court in Makati, in which an Iranian dentist accuses three Iranian "students" of beating him up within the premises of the Iranian embassy. Detention of the accused at the Commission on Immigration and Deportation (CID) has, moreover, triggered a spate of anti-government propaganda in Jomhoori Islami, the official newspaper of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Claiming torture of the detained accused, Jomhoori Islami demands their immediate release. Jomhoori Islami brands President Marcos a puppet of the United States and the trail judge corrupt.

CSO: 4600/396

IRP ORGAN WARNS GCC COUNTRIES

GF041344 Tehran JOMURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 22 Feb 84 p 11

[Editorial: "Emirates Should Know"]

[Text] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Mericful.

With the conclusion of the meeting of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council member countries, one point has become clear to all of them which is a fateful one in the short life of the newly-formed council. The knowledge of the range of the artillery of the Islamic army and the brief drubbing given by this artillery to the Baghdad regime has made the littoral emirates of the Persian Gulf see that the present situation will not last long. The effects and consequences of the range of the heavy artillery of the Islamic army has, to some extent, come to the attention of Kuwait also. Despite its internal crisis, Kuwait is forced to play host to the uninvited guests from Iraq.

The huge flood of the war refugees, who, in a hurry rush to Kuwait to find a refuge for themselves has made Kuwaiti authorities during the last few days take advantage of the situation and to declare their intentions to keep Kuwait away from the consequences of the 41-month-old destructive war.

Perhaps if the generously-worded communique of the Joint Army Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran was not based on self restraint, Kuwait would have become a state of uncontainable chaos and the flood of angry Iraqi refugees would have put the Persian Gulf littoral emirate of Kuwait in a state of irredeemable calamities.

Islamic Iran has never uttered equivocal words. Whenever it has said anything, the world has come to know that the words of the Islamic Republic authorities have strong support in the practical sense. In fact, it is on this basis that the authorities of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council have realised that the Islamic Republic of Iran will no longer exercise patience, and that it intends to throw into action a large part of its huge military machine to end the present adventurism.

While the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council is not directly involved in the war, it seems probable that their embassies in Tehran and Baghdad have defaulted in sending reliable reports about the current war situation, especially in respect of the present sensitive state of affairs.

the emirates, members of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, have come to know from the minute details of the victories of the Islamic army in the liberations operations, that the territories of some of them are smaller than the operational zone of the Islamic army and they can easily be compared with each other. Although this fact may be a warning for the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, they still can be assured that the Islamic Republic of Iran will never do anything except extending the hand of friendship and goodwill toward nonbelligerent countries, particularly when the inhabitants of these emirates are our Muslim brothers and sisters and they are aware of the Islamic revolution and they love it.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, in spite of the fact that some of the Persian Gulf littoral regimes have been giving large aid to the aggressive and spiteful Iraq, has never thought of punishing these regimes because we know that most of this aid has been given as blackmail money to a blood thirsty criminal. The Islamic Republic of Iran does not take this aid as a sign of open participation in the war against the Islamic revolution.

In any case, this is a positive point that the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council has in various ways announced acceptance of the realities or at least they have indicated their willingness to do so. It would seem that after knowing the range of the artillery of the Islamic army, the self-restrained statement of the army of the Islamic Republic of Iran should be taken by the Persian Gulf emirates as an opportunity to announce their intentions to make good for what they have done in the past.

It is an acknowledged fact that the Persian Gulf emirates, in view of the dreadful picture that they have in their minds of the criminal Baghdad regime, have been compelled to continue paying blackmail money. But now that the mock awe of the Iraqi Ba'thist Party has been crushed, it is the best opportunity to cut the hands of the blackmailer Saddam so that the emirates of the region can breathe a sigh of relief. They have now learned that if they had stood more resolutely against payment of blackmail money, Kuwait would not have faced the crises it is suffering with the flood of Iraqi war refugees.

But the question now is what should the emirates of the region do to regain peace in the Persian Gulf? First, they should find out what would be the correct way and then they should show their goodwill in practice.

Second, they should find courage to stand against the blackmailer Saddam Tikriti, especially now when the Iraqi Ba'thists has lost their balance and are in a state of confusion.

Third, they should deal with their own nations and the foreign nationals in a good way.

Finally, they should show their sincerity in their words and deeds especially in the present circumstances when it will have vital effects on their relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is the point which the Persian Gulf littoral countries should realize gradually and understand its importance.

IRAN CLANDESTINE REPORTS ON ESFAHAN CEMETERIES

GF052034 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] According to a report by our correspondent, the main Esfahan cemetery is now completely filled because Esfahan has had the largest number of war dead. Mullah Taheri has ordered the guards to destroy houses around the cemetery in order to expand it. While Mullah Taheri has told the guards to pay a little money to the houses' owners, it looks like Mullah Khademi is opposed to destroying the houses around the cemetery and has decided it is not right to throw people out of their good houses to add to the area of the cemetery!

The bodies of the war dead are carried daily through the streets Of Esfahan and the city's large cemetery is absolutely full. Our correspondent in Esfahan adds that the people of this city have had more war dead than people of other areas. With their usual humor they say that since his arrival in Iran, Imam Khomeyni has been able to expand Iranian cemeteries and should things continue this way in Esfahan, the regime will soon destroy all the houses to expand the cemetery. Our correspondent's report adds that even though Mullahs Taheri and Khademi are at great odds, the guards have already destroyed a number of houses around Esfahan's cemetery and intend to destroy more. A sum of 60 million tumans has been allocated for this destructive task which is far below the actual value of the destroyed property. The people of Esfahan have nothing to do on Thursdays and Fridays except hold funerals and bury the dead.

CSO: 4640/133

BRIEFS

ANTI-ISLAMIC BOOKS IN USSR--The growth of Islamic ideology and the interest of Soviet Muslims in the principles and precepts of Islam led to the publication of more than 49 anti-Islamic books in that country in 1983. Half a million of these books were published and distributed. In publishing this report, a newspaper in Rome said: Compared to the number of anti-Islamic books published in 1981 and 1982, the figure demonstrates the apprehension of the Soviet authorities about the growth of Islam in that country. Referring to the ever-increasing number of Muslims in the USSR, the paper adds: Considering the average growth of Soviet Muslims--being 22 percent--it is anticipated that by the end of the year 2000 the number of Muslims in that country would reach 75 million. [Text] [LD242054 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Feb 84]

CSO: 4640/137

COUNCIL ON ISLAMIC IDEOLOGY MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS ON QADIANI SECT

Lahore CHATAN in Urdu 2-9 Jan 84 pp 6-8

[Column "Analysis" by Qamarul Haq Qainar]

[Excerpts] At a meeting of the Eighth National Seerat Conference, Dr Tanzilur-Rahman, chairman of the Council on Islamic Ideology [CII], said that the council, with honesty, sincerity and diligence, is pursuing its work to implement Islamic laws in the country. He said that the work of Islamizing of un-Islamic laws was also complete and had been presented to the government. He said further that the chief recommendation of the council is connected with Khatir-e Naibawwat, i.e., belief in the finality of the prophethood of Mohammad. The council has recommended the death penalty for renegades in order to prevent any further mischief in this area. He also said that the council has recommended to the government that all groups of Qadianis be debarred from calling their places of worship "mosques." They should not be allowed to say Azan, and they should not be allowed to write Muslim with their names. He said his council had recommended the death penalty for those who say disrespectful things about the Prophet Mohammad. He further said that the previous government had included in the constitution a resolution about the Qadianis being apostates, but it left undone the work of making this into law.

Despite demands from public and religious leaders, no step was taken to make it a law. It remained as a recommendation in the constitution. Now the CII has made up for this neglect by preparing a draft of such a law. Now it is up to the government to prove its love for Islam and its devotion to the Prophet and his teachings.

During his speech, Dr Tanzilur-Rahman dwelt not only on the work that was being done by the CII but also criticized those government circles that, according to him, stand in the way of implementing the recommendations of the council. He complained that the CII recommendations have not received the attention that they deserved for the hard work, sincerity and diligence devoted on them.

In reply to Dr Tanzilur-Rahman's speech, President Gen Ziaul Haq praised Dr Tanzilur-Rahman's work and lauded his vast knowledge. Regarding his

complaint that nothing was being done to implement Islamic laws, the president said that he would turn over the government of the country to Dr Tanzilur-Rahman for 10 days so that he could discover how difficult it is to implement Islamic laws in the country.

All of the recommendations of the CII are correct and true to the Islamic spirit. We say this about the recommendations that have been made public. After studying these recommendations, we can conclude that other recommendations of the CII must be sincere and true to the spirit of Islam. This is precisely the aim of this council. It has to Islamize those laws in our country that are un-Islamic and anti-Islamic. That is why men have been made members of the council who are not only well-versed in religious learning but also experts in what are known as modern sciences.

In light of the ideological basis of Pakistan, the Islamization of laws will ensure a better future for the country. Luckily, President Ziaul Haq is actively interested in the implementation of Islamic law in the land. He often talks about his desires in this respect. His voice is often heard against those whom he thinks to be against Pakistan and its ideology and against Islam. It is a sad fact that after the creation of Pakistan, anti-Pakistan and anti-Islam elements were able to gain strength at the government level. The worst among these elements is the Qadiani sect. These people are renegades, denying the finality of the prophethood of Mohammad. They have betrayed Pakistan as well as Islam. Nevertheless, they go about in the guise of Islam and mislead simple Muslims. Now that Pakistan is ruled by a government that is pro-Islam, this sect should not dare to go about doing mischief and get away with it. They insult the traditions of Islam and weaken our nation and country with the help of their Jewish masters. We think the demands of the religious leaders and our countrymen are based on justice, and we appeal to the government to implement these recommendations through an ordinance. The government should take steps to make Muslims safe from the mischief of the Qadianis for ever.

As for the challenging offer that the president has made to Dr Tanzilur-Rahman, about giving him leadership of the country to make him see the difficulties in the way of Islamization of the laws, we would like to say that there must be difficulties, but to take the public into his confidence, the president should tell them all about the difficulties. The people of Pakistan have lived for 36 years in the hope of seeing complete Islamization of life and government in the country. They want to know the difficulties that stand in the way of the fulfillment of their hearts' desire. We are confident that the chief among these difficulties must be the power-mad people who have been ruling this country and who think that ruling it as they please is their birthright. They think no power can stand in their way. We appeal to the president to take steps that will disillusion these people completely. We also say to the president that the work of making a survey of the Qadianis in the government (which was appreciated by the Muslims) must now be in its final stages. We hope that as soon as the survey is complete, the results will be made public.

12476

CSO: 4656/77

RETIRED JUSTICE CRITICIZES PARTIES' ACQUIESCENCE IN ELECTIONS

Lahore CHATAN in Urdu 2-9 Jan 84 pp 13,14,16,42

/Interview with retired Justice Sheikh Shaukat Ali by Parvez Hameed:
"The Greatest Fraud in History;" date and place not specified

/Excerpts

/Question Sheikh Sahib, with the help of your political insight and your wide knowledge of astrology, please tell us something about what is going to happen in 1984.

/Answer I will not talk about the stars and astrology in detail, as I have not yet completed my study. Two weeks after completing the study for 1984, I will be able to provide more details. In a few words, I can say that for Pakistan, 1984 will be no different from 1983. No big changes are to be expected.

/Question For a long time now, things in our country seem to have come to a standstill. Nothing seems to have direction. Is there any solution to this deadlock?

/Answer The cause of the deadlock is the defeated political parties of Pakistan. It is a fact that those who are defeated are hardly ever successful again. All political parties have been defeated by the present government, and they have accepted their defeat. This defeat is not only factual but psychological, too. These parties think of themselves as defunct. What is called defunct is, I think, defunct.

The government calls these parties defunct, the newspapers write about them as defunct. So must so that these people call their parties defunct in their statements and press releases. The leaders of these parties have never protested against their parties being called defunct.

Again, the parties that have agreed to take part in nonparty elections have logically come to an end. Their officers should resign from their posts. They should find some other job since they are not fit to take part in politics. I say this in particular to Pir Pagara, president of the defunct Muslim League; the individualistic politics in which he wants

to indulge have mutilated the very face of the party that created Pakistan. He should not degrade the Muslim League. The way he insults old Muslim Leaguers and office holders of the Muslim League is simply deplorable. I pity S M Zafar, who is a great lawyer and a patriotic politician, because he is still the general secretary of the Muslim League, even after bearing so much ill-treatment at the hands of Pir Pagara. I appeal to S M Zafar, through the pages of CHATAN, if his position in Muslim League circles is strong, to remove Pir Pagara from the presidency of the Muslim League; otherwise he should leave the League himself. Can the League not survive without Pir Pagara? I regret, and, I believe does every other patriot, the fact that the exalted position that was once held by great men like Qaid-e Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Khan Liaqat Ali Khan and Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar is now held by a political clown. The Muslim League could be a strong and worthy political party if a worthy man were made its leader and all Muslim Leaguers were brought together. The Muslim League still has the potential to become a national party.

Remember that two or three political parties are essential for the restoration of democracy in the country. As long as this does not happen, martial law will remain, and nobody can remove it. We have a living example before us. There were two representative and strong political parties in the subcontinent and they were able to oust a great power like the British and an Islamic country was created. If there were now a strong political party in the country, martial law could not exist. At present there is no towering political personality in the country and no national political party. Hence, martial law cannot be removed. I am sure that if a strong, appropriate, national party came forward, the present government would have to hand over power to it. I wrote in an article some days ago that if elections are held on a nonparty basis, people will be elected on the bases of brotherhood and castes like Arain, Kashmiri, Kakkezai, Gujjar, etc. People will be elected on the basis of brotherhood or castes. This will not only destroy the Pakistani nation but also destroy the two-nation theory. Then these castes and brotherhoods will consume our country.

The example of the local elections is before us. Members were chosen on the basis of biradari system, the clans and each member spent at least 3 to 4 lakh /100,000/ rupees on his election. If elections to the national and provincial assemblies are held on the same basis, we can imagine how much money will be spent. This is the surest way to ruin the country. The greatest allegation levelled against Bhutto was that his election was a fraud, but if the elections are held on nonparty basis, this will be the greatest fraud in history; people will win elections by spending money, and the present government will be responsible for it. I think that if the defunct political parties have any spark of patriotism left in them, they should unite on this one point and ask the government not to hold elections on a nonparty basis.

12476

CSO: 4656/77

SAFDAR SAYS GENERAL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN MARCH 1985

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 11 Feb 84 p 8

[Text] SIALKOT, Feb. 10: The Federal Council Chairman Khawaja Mohammed Safdar has said that the general elections in the country will be held in March next year.

Talking informally to journalists here today after attending a ceremony held under the auspices of Pakpura Welfare Society Khawaja Safdar said that the process of the general elections throughout the country will be completed by March 1985, as already announced by the Government in this respect.

To a question the Federal Council Chairman declined comments over the recent banning of the students unions in all educational institutions in the province of Punjab.

Earlier speaking at ceremony Khawaja Safdar urged the people to solve their minor problems on self-help basis. He said we shall have to meet our basic necessities with joint interest and cooperation as we are living in an underdeveloped country. We should work for the welfare and uplift of the country extending our cooperation to the Government he stressed.

Khawaja Safdar on this occasion announced a donation of Rs. 25 thousand for the Pakpura Welfare Society to spend on the welfare projects of the area.

Mayor Sialkot Dr. Mohammad Ashraf also spoke on the occasion.--PPI.

CSO: 4600/398

VIEWS ON BENAZIR BHUTTO'S DEPARTURE FROM VARIOUS POLITICAL FIGURES

Karachi JANG in Urdu 22 Jan 84 p 6

[Column "Sind Diary" by JANG correspondent Mukhtar Aqil: "What Is the Secret Behind Benazir's Sudden Departure: Numerous Questions and Speculations"]

[Text] Generally speaking, every person in the country, especially in Sind Province, is inquisitive about the sudden departure overseas of Miss Benazir Bhutto, the last political successor of the Bhutto family in Pakistan and acting chairwoman of the defunct People's Party [PPP]. On 9 January, after midnight, when the city's poor and the country's humble were fast asleep, a plane took off from Karachi airport carrying the political successor to the former late president, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, into the skies and across the country, leaving behind many questions. For certain sectors, this is the third most important event in recent history after the change that took place on 5 July 1977 and Bhutto's execution, one that has mentally shaken the people and whose long-range political ramifications are being evaluated. One school of thought believes that the "sudden" departure of Benazir Bhutto is also a part of the administration's psychological war against the opposing political powers. Miss Benazir Bhutto's sudden departure overseas without notification has become the focus of attention for intellectual circles. Inflation, unemployment and the MRD's dying campaign have slipped into the background. Every intelligent person, imagination running wild, wants to know the secret behind the sudden departure of Benazir. He is not prepared to accept the fact that Miss Benazir Bhutto left merely to receive treatment for her ears. After all, her mother, Begum Nusrat Bhutto, also went overseas for treatment. At that time, however, the matter was given considerable publicity before she left. A medical board also sat. Nevertheless, what sort of departure is this that the newspapers said nothing about it, no medical board was formed and there was no gathering of people at the airport to wish her goodbye when she left. The vice president of the Sind PPP Students Federation, Sayed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, has expressed the fear that Miss Benazir Bhutto might have been sent into exile. However, the president, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has rectified this fear by saying that Benazir Bhutto herself had expressed a desire to go overseas and that she had forwarded a formal request. There are also reports that the report given by Miss Benazir Bhutto's physician, Dr Imdad Baluch, alone helped accomplish this task. This report was forwarded to the Government

of Sind. It is said that based on this report, the key role for making arrangements for Miss Benazir Bhutto's departure overseas was played by her younger sister, Sanam Bhutto, and her husband, Nasir Husain. Nasir Husain is the son of a close friend of an important Sind administrator. Thus, without any medical board, Miss Benazir Bhutto obtained a permit to go overseas. According to circles close to the Bhutto family, Sanam, an apolitical person, was upset over the 3 years of continuous imprisonment of her older sister. Besides, the MRD campaign also had floundered. Under such circumstances, therefore, she was anxious, at any price, to bring her sister out of imprisonment and into the free outside world, which seemed impossible while living in Pakistan under the present administration. On the day of departure, therefore, that is on 9 January when both the sisters met from 12 noon to 4 p.m. at the 70 Clifton Road residence, all arrangements for the departure were finalized. But after leaving the residence at 4 p.m., Mrs Sanam Nasir never gave any indication to the outside world about her sister's departure, fearing that if the outside world learned about it, the administration might postpone Miss Benazir Bhutto's departure for overseas. Thus, in the darkness of the night, both the sisters quietly bade goodbye to their homeland. The following day, the news hit their fellow countrymen like an atom bomb. All faces became a question mark. The news struck the imprisoned members of the MRD like lightening. When the inhabitants of Larkana, the ancestral district of the Bhutto family, heard the news, they fell into a death swoon. They did not believe this news. Miss Benazir Bhutto's uncle, Ali Nawaz Dheraj, told us that the news of the departure overseas of his imprisoned niece was strange and striking for him. He had never imagined that Benazir would be permitted to leave the country. Their minds were still occupied with the incident that took place at Mirpur Bhutto during the MRD campaign, when police ignored even the family elder, Nawab Nabi Bakhsh Bhutto, and the ladies and gained entry into the house. It was indeed surprising and amazing that the administration could change its attitude toward the Bhutto family to such an extent that it would send that family's political successor, imprisoned for the last 3 years, out of the country. Commenting on this news, a shopkeeper of Larkana said that ever since the MRD campaign ended, they had even stopped listening to the BBC. He said that Miss Benazir was an orphan, and by sending her overseas for treatment, President Ziaul Haq had performed the role of an affectionate father. A lawyer in Larkana said that Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq was a pious and noble person. He got Miss Benazir treated within the country. He provided her with top specialists and she received treatment in the country's best hospital. However, when the sickness appeared incurable, she was sent overseas, even though during her father's reign the honor of the daughters of even his own party office holders was at stake. The vice president of the defunct Jamaat-e Islami, Maulana Jan Mohammad Abbasi, also has his connections with Larkana. He contested the elections against the late Mr Bhutto. Commenting on Miss Benazir Bhutto's departure, he said, "The medical report forwarded to the government would certainly have been so critical that it considered it appropriate for Miss Benazir to be treated overseas, and she was allowed to leave the country. In addition, the administration and the defunct PPP enjoy an old mutual understanding. This party also participated in the 1979 municipal elections, and even now there are individuals connected

with the party in the Advisory Council and the provincial councils. The defunct PPP has never been a threat to the administration, nor has the administration been threatened by the Bhutto family. Therefore, it makes no difference whether this family resides within the country or outside." He said that the real problem was to end the present situation of political uncertainty. The sole way to achieve this is to hold general elections on a party basis. The former minister of the interior and a member of the Advisory Council, Qazi Fazlullah, also belongs to Larkana. Commenting on Miss Benazir Bhutto's departure, he said, "The administration has taken an effective and praiseworthy step by granting freedom to Benazir. To grant her permission for treatment overseas on the basis of human sympathy is a manifestation of the administration's interest in human values." Commenting on Maulana Abdul Sattar Niazi's statement, he said that he was a veteran politician and a good person, and that this tone of speech did not suit his personality. He should not have used words that were regarded as indecent in the Sindhi language. He said that Miss Benazir is an intelligent but stubborn girl, and the administration has performed a noble task by releasing her. The former chairman of the Larkana district council, Ghulam Mujtaba Imran, and labor leader Mohammad Sadiq Chandio said that even after the departure of Miss Benazir Bhutto, the party's members would remain firm on their stand. He condemned Maulana Abdul Sattar Niazi's statement in which the Maulana said that he was unaccustomed to killing rats with an atom bomb, that Benazir Bhutto did not come in his range nor did he give any importance to young, immature and impudent girls. He said that he did respect Maulana Abdul Sattar Niazi as a religious scholar, but the Maulana had hurt their feelings by making that statement and he should apologize for saying those words. Maulana Abdul Sattar Niazi's statement has caused provocation among Larkana's ordinary citizens, too. The head of the Support Pakistan movement (formerly Support Zia movement), Mohammad Yunus Bhutto, condemned Maulana Niazi's statement, observing that such words do not befit such a high-level scholar and a veteran politician. Commenting on Miss Benazir Bhutto's departure, he said that it was a commendable step taken by the administration and that it had opened a new avenue in politics that would smooth the path toward unity and help people understand the administration's point of view.

I met with a farmer in Sanghar who gave me his name as Urs. He was working on a farm on the bank of Jumrad canal. At my inquiry, he raised his face, which reflected the redness of hard work. He asked me, "Benazir who?" I said, "The former president Bhutto's daughter, who has left the country." While sowing grain seed, he said, "Brother! What can we say about her departure? The only thing we know is that you shall reap what you sow. We have seen the bloodshed of six oppressed Hurs in Sanghar. After all, God may delay His punishment, but the punishment will come. Bhutto had not only to give up his position but his life. Sir, he was not old enough to die. But the sigh of the poor is very bad. The entire family is in exile. May God shower His mercy upon them." After saying this, he fell silent. Commenting on Benazir Bhutto's departure, the president of the defunct PPP of Tharparkar District, Sayed Inayat Ali Shah, said that when Miss Benazir was undergoing treatment at Clifton

hospital, he was appointed to take care of her. He carefully studied her medical reports as well. In light of those reports, her treatment in Pakistan was impossible, and she ran a high risk of becoming deaf. What could a politician do politically if he became deaf? Certain people were judging her departure in the wrong sense. They wanted to eliminate Miss Benazir Bhutto from the political arena, because her presence could be a source of danger to the country's integrity and unity." A zealous party member of this district, appearing to be quite dismal, said, "Politics has become an orphan after the departure of Miss Benazir and the Bhutto family. It is debatable whether spring will ever dawn in this desert." Sind University has put an important imprint on the politics of the province, and the effects of the campaign that sprang up there have always deeply influenced the politics of the entire province and the country. I met with a group of students in the arts faculty there. When they were asked to comment on Miss Benazir Bhutto's departure, a youth came forward and said, "Apparently Miss Benazir Bhutto has gone for treatment, but in fact, she has been politically exiled. Nevertheless, no one should be under the misapprehension that we will accept Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi's leadership after Miss Behazir Bhutto's departure. Miss Benazir and Begum Nusrat Bhutto alone can lead the defunct PPP, and its members shall remain loyal to them." The former president of Sind University and leader of the Jiye Sind Students Federation, Ghulam Mohammad Jakhrani, commenting on Miss Benazir Bhutto's departure from the country, said that Miss Benazir Bhutto is an embodiment of the unity among all four provinces, and because of Begum Nusrat Bhutto and Miss Benazir, the defunct PPP is united throughout the four provinces. After their departure overseas, however, it will be difficult to maintain that unity. The extremist elements will have an opportunity to come forward and the defunct PPP will end up as a party on a regional level only. In response to a question, he said that Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi and Mumtaz Ali Bhutto are regional leaders. How can they provide united leadership on a national level when both have separate groups in Sind. In the presence of Begum Bhutto and Miss Benazir, the party leaders and members did not talk against each other, but this organization will now be scattered. This will strengthen the separatists, and the feeling of deprivation will become stronger. Another group leader of the Jiye Sind Students Federation said that Benazir or the Bhutto family is not the problem of Sind. What have they done for Sind? Mr M. Sayed was also in prison during their rule. The real problem of Sind is freedom and the restoration of rights, the struggle for which will continue. The common people of Sind, the intellectuals, the lawyers and the students, have given their explanations according to their respective viewpoints about Miss Benazir Bhutto's departure. Some individuals see her overseas visit as purely for reasons of health and say that she will soon return, whereas others, viewing it against the country's present situation, are estimating its far-reaching political effects. The deputy general secretary of the defunct Jamiatul Ulema-e Pakistan, Prof Shah Faridul Haq, said, "The last obstacle in the path of the administration has been removed. There should be, therefore, no delay in the general elections." In the opinion of the provincial president of the defunct Tahrik-e Istiqlal, Ahmad Mian Sumroo, and of Khalil Ahmad Nainital Wala, Miss Benazir Bhutto's departure overseas will not much influence the country's politics. According to them, people come and go for treatment overseas, and, furthermore, national politics are not bound up with the Bhutto family. The real problem is the general elections--when and how they

will be held. As far as the Bhutto family is concerned, it can return to this country because there is no restriction imposed on it. Commenting on Miss Benazir's departure, the senior vice chairman of Maulana Kausar Niazi's defunct Progressive People's Party, Mian Iqbal Chishti, said, "Miss Benazir is the daughter of a great leader. Her illness causes distress to all of us. With her departure from the country, at least the perception that the current administration is cruel to the Bhutto family can be eliminated." He said that there is no possibility that Miss Benazir Bhutto's departure overseas will bring about any sort of political change in the country. The present martial law administration has outlined a complete program for the general elections, and it is doubtful that elections for the provincial assembly will be held in April 1984. Nevertheless, there is no possibility whatsoever that Miss Benazir Bhutto's departure will affect any administration program. According to political circles, the basic problem, after Miss Benazir Bhutto's departure overseas, will be the party's leadership in the country. At the time of her departure, Miss Benazir in her message named a member of the party's steering committee, Sheikh Rashid, to succeed her as the party's leader. Sheikh Rashid is also the senior vice chairman of the party. But since he is outside the country, the people are focusing their attention on the party's vice chairman, Mr Mohammad Zaman Talibul Maula, for practical leadership. All five of his sons have played a vital and effective role in the MRD's campaign for the restoration of democracy. One of them, Mr Khaliqul Zaman, is currently imprisoned in the Machh jail at Quetta. In his place, his brother, Amin Fahim, is leading the party on the provincial level. Recently, the leader of the defunct Pakistan Muslim League, Pir Sahib Pagara, went to Hala to meet with Mr Talibul Maula. After that, his son, Mr Amin Fahim, met with the defunct Jamaat-e Islami's deputy amir, Prof Ghafoor Ahmad. As a result of these meetings, there is a perception that after Miss Benazir Bhutto's departure overseas, rightist trends are now gaining strength in the PPP. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi is regarded as the embodiment of the rightist trends in the party, and if the rightists gain strength, there is an overwhelming possibility that the party's leadership will slip into the hands of Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi. After that, there is also a possibility that the defunct Jamaat-e Islami, the defunct Muslim League (Pagara group) and the defunct Jamiatul Ulema-e Islam (Darkhwasti group) will also become a part of the MRD. However, Mr Mohammad Zaman Talibul Maula has refused to make any predictions in this regard. According to him, he had no meeting with Miss Benazir Bhutto prior to her departure for Paris. He considers it too early to comment on the present issue. The most interesting comment on Miss Benazir Bhutto's departure is from the wife of Maulana Ehtramul Haq Thanvi, Begum Safia Ehtramul Haq Thanvi. Bearing in mind a woman's human frailties, in a painful tone she said, "What did the poor girl do when she was locked up for so many years, and what could she do if she were imprisoned longer. It is good that she decided to leave the country. She will receive treatment and enjoy a change of climate as well. May God grant her sound health and may it prove beneficial for the country. The administration should now dispel the element of fear from its mind, release political prisoners and hold the elections."

9779

CSO: 4656/81

MINISTER SAYS TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES NOT TO BE BANNED

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 21 Feb 84 p 5

[Text] TARBELA, Feb. 20: Mr Ghulam Dastgir Khan, Federal Minister for Labour, Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis, said here today that the Government has no intention to impose ban on trade union activities, however, the labourers should be vigilant about those, who were working against the integrity and solidarity of the country.

Speaking at the installation ceremony of the WAPDA Employees Union, Tarbela, some 70 miles from the Federal capital, he lauded the services of the trade union leaders and said: "they had played a positive role in stabilising industrial peace in the country." The Government, he said, was aware of the importance of the trade unions and to mould them towards healthy activities, it has opened four training centres, one each in all the four provinces of Pakistan. The centres will play their due role to create a cordial atmosphere and greater liaison between the trade union leaders and the employers, he added.

The Government, the Minister said, was sincere in solving labourers' problems and to achieve the purpose it was considering a number of labour welfare schemes. He urged the employers to make decisions, pertaining to labourers in line with the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). This will create an environment of goodwill and understanding between the two main pillars of the industry, he maintained.

Highlighting the historical background of Pakistan, Mr. Khan said: "Pakistan was a gift of God, which was achieved on the basis of the Islamic ideology." The Government, he said, was committed to safeguard its ideological and territorial frontiers as it was aware that Pakistan could exist only in the name of Islam.

Students Unions

Speaking about the imposition of ban on students unions Mr Ghulam Dastgir Khan said we have not imposed a ban on the student unions. Instead we have changed the system in order to improve the state of affairs in our educational institutions, he said.

He was of the view that some political parties misused the students for obtaining their vested interests in the educational institutions and hostels had turned into ammunition depots and the atmosphere of the institutions was badly affected.

He also quoted the Father of the Nation as asking the students not to indulge in politics before the completion of their education.

He also criticised a statement of defunct Tehreek-i-Istiqial's General-Secretary and said that he has forgotten the very fact that this country was achieved in the name of Islam. He said the Tehreek leader had talked to bringing out the women and giving them their status.

He reiterated the present regime's pledge for holding the general elections by March 1985 in the country. However, he commented the elections are not the sole solutions of our problems.

The Minister also criticised the statement of Mr Mumtaz Bhutto about the status of provinces in the country, he said it was a dangerous statement and the solidarity and integrity of Pakistan could not be guaranteed with such approach.

He also added that the work on Tunnel No 3 of the Tarbella Dam would be started from August this year this would provide job facilities for those who were jobless at present.

Earlier he administered oath to the office-bearers and assured them his full cooperation in considering their problems sympathetically.--APP PPI

CSO: 4600/398

MODERN OIL TERMINAL AT KARACHI PORT PLANNED

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 15 Feb 84 p 8

[Article by M. I. Arshad]

[Text] The Karachi port will be fully equipped with a modern oil terminal and containerisation facilities at an estimated cost of 250 million dollars under the current Sixth Five-Year Plan, Chairman, Karachi Port Trust, Rear Admiral M. I. Arshad, said yesterday.

He told a radio press conference that the container terminal costing about 130 million to 150 million US dollars would be completed in five to seven years from the starting date. He said that the financial, economic and technical feasibility reports of the project had been submitted to the Government, and that work would start soon.

The fully integrated container terminal, initially consisting of two berths, would be built on reclaimed land. Later, four more berths would be added. The Mauripur road would be widened to meet the heavy container traffic.

The KPT Chairman said that two old berths of the port would be replaced to make room for the liquid products terminal. This project would cost between 75 to 100 million US dollars and enable tankers with a 40 feet draught to enter the port.

With the completion of the two projects, Karachi would become an ultra-modern port to be compared even with the Japanese ports, he added.

The KPT Chairman said that the Karachi port was earning a considerable amount of foreign exchange as shipping dues from the foreign ships. The same was utilised with the approval of the Government for meeting the port's development needs.

To another question, he said the improvements made in the KPT revenue earning departments in recent years had made revenue leakage virtually an impossibility.

He said that KPT would acquire two modern tugs to improve service.

Workers Welfare

To a question about the workers welfare projects, Rear-Admiral Arshad said that KPT was running a modern 150-bed hospital, for its 13,000 employees. Furthermore, the KPT was running 12 schools for providing free education to the children of KPT personnel.--APP.

CSO: 4600/398

SHIPPING CORPORATION AFFAIRS BEING PROBED

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 14 Feb 84 p 1

[Article by Anwar Rajani]

[Text] The Federal Investigation Commission (FIC) is looking into the affairs of the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC), it is reliably learnt.

A three-member team of the commission is reported to be going through the records of various sections of the Corporation for the last couple of days.

According to informed sources, the FIC team would prepare a report and submit it to the Government soon.

It may be mentioned here that PNSC has been suffering heavy losses for a couple of years. According to its management, the losses are the result of the unprecedented recession in the shipping industry all over the world.

Consequently, the Federal Government had appointed a committee headed by State Bank Governor A. G. N. Kazi to suggest ways and means how to inject vigour into the PNSC for its smooth operations.

The committee, sometime in July last, had suggested a package of measures for the consideration of the Government. A decision on these measures is yet to be taken.

The Committee, among other things, had suggested that the share capital of the PNSC should be increased by over Rs. 250 million which could be subscribed by the Government.

The total losses of the Corporation at present are reported to have touched the figure of about Rs. 20 crore when its paid-up capital is Rs. 25 crore only.

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BRIEFS

RELATIONS WITH CHILE--The Pakistan Government has agreed to a Chilean proposal to open an embassy in Pakistan. This was stated during a meeting between Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan with the Chilean Government's special envoy, (Jaime Lagos), in Islamabad yesterday. [Text] [BK230755 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Feb 84]

MEETING WITH VIETNAMESE ENVOY--The vice chairman of the State Council of Vietnam, Mr Nguyen Huu Tho, has said the appointment of the ambassador of Pakistan to Vietnam will help in promoting friendly relations and better understanding between the two countries. He stated this while receiving letters of credence from the Pakistani ambassador, Mr Afzal Mahmud, in Hanoi. [Text] [BK240710 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 24 Feb 84]

SEIZURE OF ILLEGAL ARMS REPORTED--Chunian, 20 Feb--In the village of (Nathe Khalsa), the Chunian Criminal Investigation Agency [CIA] raided a den for illegally manufacturing arms and arrested the owner, Inayat Ali, seized a large quantity of 12 bore and 7 mm carbines, revolvers and cartridges and confiscated the instruments for their manufacture and other equipment. The Chunian CIA sub-inspector said that the authorities had been worried about the increasing quantity of locally-manufactured arms and ammunition in the Qasur and Chunian districts for some time. The CIA staff of Qasur district began a special investigation and kept a vigilant eye on all nearby areas. They were informed that in the neighboring village of (Nathe Khalsa) in the area of Bhai (Phero) police station, a man named Inayat Ali was secretly carrying out the abominable business of manufacturing illegal arms in what was ostensibly a workshop and was supplying them to professional criminals on a large scale. The Chunian CIA staff formed a raiding party and surrounded the accused's workshop and he was caught redhanded while working on some weapons. Numerous locally made 7 mm revolvers, carbines and cartridges were seized in his possession, along with the equipment he used. [Text] [GF262006 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 21 Feb 84 p 1]

PLEA FOR SARAIKI PROVINCE--QUETTA, Feb. 10: Former Governor of Baluchistan Nawab Mohammad Akbar Khan Bugti has called for creation of a Saraiki province in addition to the existing provinces in the country. Mr Bugti told Press conference here today that he was, however, opposed to further fragmentation of the existing provinces. He pleaded for all provincial autonomy for all the provinces.--PPI. [Text] [Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 11 Feb 84 p 8]

AFGHAN REFUGEES FROM IRAN--QUETTA, Feb. 13: Influx of Afghan refugees from Iran into Pakistan goes on uninterrupted, according to a report received here today from Baluchistan border district of Chagai adjacent to Iran and Afghanistan. According to this report about four thousand Afghan Refugees have already poured into Baluchistan from Iranian city of Zahidan. More are on the move from Iran. They have been lodged in tentage villages in Chagai district.--PPI. [Text] [Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 14 Feb 84 p 1]

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